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FURTHER VIDELA-PINOCHET MEETING POSSIBLE

FY181622Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpts] Generals Videla and Pinochet will meet tomorrow Thursday at the headquarters of the 4th Airborne Brigade. This meeting was officially announced by the Argentine and Chilean Foreign Ministries through the following communique:

Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla and Chilean President Augusto Pinochet have mutually agreed to meet tomorrow, Thursday, 19 January, 1978, at 1000 in Mendoza. During this meeting, issues of common interest, particularly those related with the southern problem, will be discussed. [communique ends]

The talk tomorrow will have no established agenda; no specific points were given. Depending on the result of this meeting, a new meeting will take place on 24 January at a place and time to be determined later. Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes and Chilean Foreign Minister Patricio Carvajal will not participate in tomorrow's meeting.

Montes Hopeful

FY190242Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Excerpt] Rosario, 18 Jan--There is no problem, no matter how serious, that cannot be solved through direct and honest dialog, which is the most efficient means for understanding, according to Adm Oscar Antonio Montes, the minister of foreign relations and worship, in reference to the Beagle issue.

The Argentine foreign minister answered a questionnaire from the newspaper LA CAPITAL of Rosario which was published in today's edition. Asked why the Argentine Government has in this case decided to adopt an attitude contrary to its tradition as a country respectful of its international agreements, the foreign minister said it was because we are confronting different circumstances this time.

Actually, if we make an in-depth analysis of the situation, it is easy to see that we are not dealing with a stand opposed to our tradition as a country which respects international law. On the contrary, we do not intend to reject the arbitral decision on the grounds that it is unfavorable to us, nor because we have now found out that the judges of the arbitral court were not the appropriate ones, nor because we believe that the arbitral court reached its decision guided by principles unbecoming judges who have been entrusted with such a delicate and important task. Far from this, what has happened is that during these 9 months (which, by the way, was designated by the arbiter so that the parties could analyze their decision) the Foreign Ministry, with the help of renowned international jurists, has found the arbitral decision to have unacceptable legal errors. That is why I repeat that we are not dealing with a capricious or unfounded stand by a bad loser. If the arbitral decision did not have the errors to which I am referring, Argentine would accept it as it has always done. We are respectful of contracted agreements. We have shown this throughout our existence as an independent nation. It is because we are loyal defenders of the laws of the international community that we cannot disregard the arbitral decision's legal errors.

Among the most serious of these errors we should include: disregard of the 1893 protocol as an additional explanatory instrument to the 1881 treaty; and the fact that the decision includes areas which were not in dispute, according to Foreign Minister Montes. We can see that historic and geographic errors have also been committed. For example, the Atlantic Ocean is said to reach to the De Los Estados Island and not to Cape Horn.

He then said he was sure there was the possibility of continuing negotiations with Chile before or after the rejection of the arbitral decision. He added that there is no problem, no matter how serious, which cannot be solved through direct and honest dialog, which is the most efficient means for understanding.

Videla in Mendoza for Meeting

PY191233Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1142 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 19 Jan--The airplane carrying President Videla and his small delegation arrived at Plumerillo International Airport at 0830 for his meeting with President Pinochet. The Argentine president left early for Mendoza to prepare for the meeting.

Pinochet Arrives in Mendoza

PY191307Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1234 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Mendoza, 19 Jan--Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet arrived at Plumerillo Airport at 0955.

III Corps Commander to Mendoza

PY191236Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1137 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 19 Jan--Maj Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, III Corps commander, left for Mendoza early this morning. The III Corps commander's trip is related to the meeting which the Chilean and Argentine presidents will hold in Mendoza. General Menendez is scheduled to return to Cordoba on 21 January.

RIGHTS INVESTIGATORS BEGIN 1-WEEK VISIT

PY190224Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan--French Adm (Antoine Sanguinetti) (ret) arrived here today, appointed by the International Human Rights League and Pax Romana to carry out an investigation about missing persons in Argentina. Three jurists accompany him on this mission: Franceline Lepany, a Paris lawyer; M. Semmel, a Washington lawyer; and Carlos Carro, a member of the New York Supreme Court.

The mission will stay for 1 week in Argentina. The four representatives from the international organizations are to contact the French Embassy to obtain information about the development on the investigation of the kidnaping on 8 and 10 December of two French nuns and 11 relatives of missing persons.

REACTION, COMMENTARY ON GENERAL AMNESTY, HUNGER STRIKE

Banzer Announces General Amnesty

PY181225Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] General Hugo Banzer announced last night in a speech to the nation that the government of the armed forces has decided to approve a general amnesty within the framework of the country's democratization plan, which will end in elections on 9 July, 1978.

The announcement was followed by a call to all political parties to prepare and sign an agreement of national pacification within the framework of a pluralist society which would grant each one of its members rights and obligations related to the common good.

Details of Amnesty Announcement

PY181700Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1516 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--In a message broadcast to the country over radio and television, Bolivian President Hugo B nzer stated early this morning that his government has granted a general amnesty after 20 days of hunger strikes in demand of this measure. Banzer said that, since the hunger strike problem has been solved, his government will uphold its firm decision to continue accomplishing the democratization plan of the country, with the support of the armed forces of the nation. He added: "The general amnesty which is decreed as of today will by no means leave the enemies of Bolivia unpunished."

In his speech Banzer did not, however, identify who the "enemies of Bolivia" are. Banzer said: "On behalf of the armed forces, whose main mission at the present time is that of finishing their task of democratic constitutionalization of the country, I call together all political parties to work out and sign a national pacification agreement within the framework of a pluralistic society." He then cautioned that "the armed forces government will energetically apply the laws in force to guarantee democracy and to achieve constitutionalization according to the will of the people."

After stressing that "we are convinced that democracy is the system under which peoples reach their full development," Banzer added that "democracy is a valuable objective which is won step by step, sacrifice by sacrifice."

The president said that his government had earlier maintained that political amnesty should be gradual and progressive, in accordance with the development of political events in the country. He lashed out at the small groups which, using an old style which it was believed had been purged from the country, have caused political unrest through the hunger strike.

Political leaders have praised the general amnesty decreed by President Banzer, but they were cautious regarding its true significance.

Guillermo Jauregui of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] praised the amnesty. He said, however, that it should be complemented with a decision legalizing such labor union organizations as the Bolivian Labor Central [COB].

Jaime Ponce of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB[said that it was necessary to make a detailed appraisal of the scope of the government amnesty in order to obtain "an absolute political freedom."

Gen Juan Pereda, the government-sponsored presidential candidate, stressed the deep significance of the general amnesty, granted by the government "despite the action of the enemies of the constitutionalization of the country."

Jimenez Gallo Comment

PY190240Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2144 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--Interior Minister Gen Guillermo Jimenez Gallo said here today that "the general political amnesty announced last night by President Banzer includes everybody." He added: "All those who have been exiled may return to the country" and he warned that "those who have problems with the courts for crimes they have committed and which are punishable by law will know how to face up to their problems."

The minister made these remarks just before meeting with President Hugo Banzer with whom, he indicated, he would discuss the approval of the amnesty decree.

The approval of this decree is awaited with expectation in order to know its exact scope and in what form the amnesty, which was termed as "general" by the government, will be applied.

Father Julio Tumiri Javier, president of the executive board of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, termed the official announcement of the amnesty as "very positive" in seeking a solution for the hunger strike which, despite police action and evacuations, is still being carried out by three groups in La Paz.

FSB President Is Critical

PY181638Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Text] Mario Gutierrez [Bolivian Socialist Falange, FSB, president] has issued a press statement for his party, which includes three important points.

Mario Gutierrez stated as a first point: The present political situation is one of serious crisis. I have always maintained that some basic mistakes have been made. A discriminatory amnesty elicited the first hunger strike which proliferated throughout the country and made the situation more serious. It is not legitimate to prohibit former presidents and political and union leaders from entering the country. It would have been better not to call elections. I don't see any reason not to allow those who have pending court cases to enter the country; they cannot be denied their right to come and defend themselves. Regarding the FSB, we request that visas be granted to FSB leaders. We want them to attend our next special (?national) meetings.

In his second point, Mario Gutierrez quotes a remark made by Don Quixote to Sancho: A followup act is never as good. Getting to the point of entering a church in Santa Cruz and forcefully throwing out hunger strikers was a foolish act of terrorism and a condemnable sacrilege. The FSB expresses its complete solidarity with the Catholic Church and deeply regrets what has happened.

Mario Gutierrez concluded with a third point: If we truly want to democratize and constitutionalize life in Bolivia, the general amnesty which is requested must be granted and all claims must be met, so that in the future we do not regret an obstinate retention of power. Let us all join to save the fatherland.

Strike Agreement Reached

PY190032Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0028 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--Reliable sources reported to LATIN that representatives of the government and of the groups of people who are carrying out an extended hunger strike arrived at an agreement today for overcoming the conflict. Former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, the official spokesman for the strikers, told this agency that the strike is practically over.

Terms of Agreement Announced

PY190303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0238 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--After nearly 22 days the hunger strike, which was begun by a group of mineworkers' wives and which involved more than 1,200 people throughout the country, has come to an end. The solution to the conflict was achieved through an agreement signed by the Interior Ministry and the strikers just after 2100 local time (0100 GMT on Thursday).

The agreement contains four points:

1. A general amnesty which affects all Bolivians who are jailed, exiled, banished or are on the wanted list for political and labor causes.

2. The reincorporation of all the miners who have been fired will be studied by a commission made up of labor representatives of the mining enterprises and from the Labor Ministry.

3. The reincorporated workers will recover their posts, categories and tenure.

4. The government offers guarantees to all those who participated in the hunger strike and to the people who supported it and promises to immediately free the strikers who are currently in detention.

The agreement was reached thanks to the negotiations in which Msgr Jorge Manrique, archbishop of La Paz; Jorge Siles Salinas, the former president who was also on a hunger strike; and Jorge Rojas Tardio, the official who represented the government, took part.

Most Demands Accepted

PY190127Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0055 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--The most extended hunger strike ever known in Bolivia concluded today when the military regime accepted the most important demands of the strikers.

Former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, official spokesman for the strikers here, some of whom have been on strike for 10 days, told LATIN that the government has not only promised to implement an amnesty without restrictions but has also promised to reincorporate workers who were fired for labor problems and it will also grant guarantees for the strikers.

Two points contained in the strikers' list of demands were not implemented: the one regarding the withdrawal of the army troops from the government-owned mines. The troops have been quartered in the mines since 1976.

The groups of people who were carrying out hunger strikes in several places here, despite the fact that other groups were violently broken up by the police, began to disperse tonight. Those most affected by the hunger strike were transfered to hospitals for urgent treatment.

At its peak, the strike was being carried out in eight cities and more than 1,000 persons were involved, including children.

The Bolivian Catholic Church threatened to suspend all religious services today if the government did not seek a solution to the conflict.

Some Groups Continue Strike

FY182303Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Text] La Paz, 18 Jan--It was reported here today that only three groups in the country remain on hunger strikes after the police removed most of them from the places they had been occupying. The four women who began the movement 21 days ago continued their hunger strikes this morning in the offices of the La Paz archbishop.

The same stand was taken by former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas and six university students in the interior at the San Calixto Jesuit School. Some of the strikers arrested 24 hours ago by the police and taken to hospitals continued to refuse food. Leaders of the Assembly for Human Rights protested the invasions and police arrests of the hunger strikers in 10 of the country's cities.

KILLER OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATOR IDENTIFIED

FY190203Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Text] The Bolivian police have identified (Fernando Aquiles Ardoy) as the killer of the 17-year-old student who died last night in the Venezuela Plaza area. Col Lino Perez, the police chief, told newsmen that (Ardoy), who is now a fugitive from justice, was identified as the principal author of the student's death. Perez said the killer has a record of assault, murder, attempted murder and armed robbery. He said that (Ardoy) is considered to be a highly dangerous psychopath. The police chief said that the killer was accompanied by a woman who was not identified or located at the time of the incident.

With respect to the car which was located by the police, Colonel Perez said they had found an identity card and drivers license in it. He said the student, (Ramon Mendoza), died as a result of a 9-millimeter gunshot.

Colonel Perez has ordered strict surveillance at various points in the city in an effort to find the killer. He added that all police units have received precise instructions on this matter. He asked for the people's cooperation with the security forces to locate the perpetrator of the bloody deed. Perez denied reports saying that the action which resulted in the student's death was motivated by political reasons. In this way he denied reports published in a local morning newspaper which attributed the crime to leftist groups. However, well-informed sources believe that the killer, (Fernando Aquiles Ardoy), was at some time the bodyguard of Mario Gutierrez, a high-ranking member of the Bolivian Socialist Falange.

WORKERS STRIKE IN ADHERENCE TO OUTLAWED LEADERS

PY1902114Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1447 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 18 Jan--Observers have noted that the illegal union leadership of the 70,000 Bolivian miners yesterday achieved a widespread victory by being able to get the support of the majority of its members to hold a 48-hour strike. About 55,000 miners from the private and government sectors today started their second day of strike with the majority of them still participating, something which has not taken place since June, 1976, when military forces took over the government mining districts.

Observers in La Paz said the strike was a success because it took place despite the fact that the main government mine centers are occupied by military forces. It was added in La Paz that the military forces did not disrupt the miners' meetings and that no clashes took place.

Mining Minister Ernesto Camacho noted that the 48-hour strike will cost the country $1.6 million in losses. Another 24-hour strike was carried out last week and 2 days ago the city of La Paz was completely paralyzed by a 24-hours trike held in support of the government. Unofficially it is estimated that the various work stoppages have caused the country about $4 million-worth of losses.

The miners' strike obtained a greater response in La Paz and Cochambamba factories where work leaders have refused to recognized the "coordinators" which were appointed by the military government as the workers' spokesmen. Several factories carried out yesterday in several Bolivian cities intermittent strikes in support of the hunger strikers.

Political observers believe that the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] achieved a great political victory despite the fact that its principal leaders are in exile and that those who are in the country are outside the law. The miners, who are considered "the sleeping lion of national life," awoke after a 20-month recess and local observers noted that by doing this they showed that they are the backbone of the Bolivian economy since any kind of strike held by this sector immediately produces serious economic losses to the country.

GEISEL SAYS HE MAY MEET ARGENTINE PRESIDENT

PA181952Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1704 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (LATIN)--Brazilian President Gen Ernesto Geisel today admitted the possibility of holding a meeting with his Argentine counterpart, Gen Jorge Videla, after he pays a visit to Uruguay. However, he said that "no plans have been made." Geisel also admitted that "there are differences with Argentina concerning the use of water resources, but we believe that they can be resolved through negotiations."

The president mentioned the possibility of Videla's visit when he answered a question from LATIN during a news conference held shortly before concluding his 4-day visit to Mexico. "A meeting with President Videla is just as likely as a meeting with any other Latin American president," Geisel remarked. In recent months he has met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Regarding Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilion's statement that the meeting is "inevitable," Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, Brazilian minister of foreign affairs, told LATIN 2 days ago that "the doors are open to receive Videla." "Argentina and Brazil are friendly countries, and I believe that our trade level is among the highest between any two developing countries," Geisel said. "They are countries that have been living in peace for over a century."

Brazil and Paraguay are currently building the Itaipu Dam, a binational project which will produce 11 million kilowatts of hydroelectric power. Similarly, Argentina and Paraguay are planning another project, Corpus, but Argentina contends that the elevation of Itaipu will cause technical problems for the construction of Corpus since it will be built in Alto Parana. A tripartite committee of experts and diplomats will meet next month in Asuncion to discuss the possibilities of reaching an agreement on the matter.

STATE OFFICIAL CRITICIZES GEISEL'S RIGHTS RECORD

FY190221Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 78 FY

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 18 Jan--Helio Bicudo, Sao Paulo state attorney general, stated here today that President Ernesto Geisel's government has not registered any progress in the field of human rights. According to Bicudo, who is also a member of the Sao Paulo Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission, Geisel was only able to cut down police torture, but did not do anything regarding the repression of opposition movements.

Furthermore, Bicudo added that he does not believe that the situation will change with the succession of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo to the presidency in 1979. General Figueiredo was recently appointed by Geisel as his candidate for the presidential succession. He added that the repressive system against any opposition movement will stay unchanged while the present regime stays in power. He noted that the congressional recess and the constitutional reforms imposed by Geisel in April, 1977 were the first steps of an authoritarian set-up which culminated with the appointment of Figueiredo.

Bicudo believes that human rights will be respected only by a fully democratic regime.

INTERIOR MINISTER SUPPORTS PARTIAL AMNESTY

PY181441Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jan 78 p 2 PY

[Text] Interior Minister Rangel Reis stated yesterday in Salvador [Bahia state capital] that he is in favor of a "partial and individual" amnesty, that is, on the basis of a study of every particular case benefiting only those who "deserve a new opportunity" and those who did not commit crimes against the national security law. He feels that the process of amnesty under these conditions must begin now.

The minister feels that the institutionalization of the revolution must begin now, because the Brazilian people are mature enough and have no doubts that the future government, headed by Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, will have all the qualifications needed to continue the political opening.

Speaking on the presidential succession, as a member of ARENA, Rangel Reis supports holding the party convention early because he feels that it would be a waste of time to delay approving the candidacies of Figueiredo and Governor Aureliano Chaves.

The minister also favors a cabinet reshuffle and revision of the two-party system, "which does not reflect the real situation of the Brazilian political structure." But he is against legalization of the Brazilian Communist Party "because it presents the antithesis of the democratization which we intend to carry out." He also feels that right now it is impossible to predict what will happen with the national political and party system.

Rangel Reis feels that the political movement regarding the replacement of governors is absolutely normal, but that a decision [on the successors] will only be made at the end of March.

NETHERLANDS DEMANDS ON URANIUM RESTRICTIONS MET

PY181417Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jan 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpts] Among the changes which Brazil accepted so that the Netherlands would approve the supply of enriched uranium to the Angra I and II nuclear reactors by URENCO are the following: to submit for approval by the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] the methods to be used for chemical treatment of enriched uranium; to present at any time for IAEA inspection the records of receipt, use and processing of radioactive material; and inspection of installations and special equipment.

If contracts for supplies to Angra I and II are approved, Brazil will become the largest buyer from URENCO during the 80's, requiring the Almelo factory to expand its capacity from 60 tons in 1977 to 200 tons in 1979 and 1,000 tons in 1985.

At the same time, Brazil agrees to allow IAEA inspectors to inspect the chemical methods to be used in the reactors--to verify that they will not be used for military purposes, that they will afford protection for workers, and that security regulations will be enforced. The inspectors will study the records of material received and the utilization of enriched uranium, to prevent unauthorized supply to another country--even the FRG, the Brazilian partner in construction of the nuclear reactors.

Regarding plutonium, the IAEA will be in charge of its storage before it is used in the reprocessing plant. If any irregularity occurs in complying with the agreed safeguards, the IAEA has the right to suspend or cancel its assistance, withdrawing any assistance, equipment or material provided by IAEA or any of its member countries. The safeguards on supply of enriched uranium by URENCO are the most rigid ever negotiated and are very similar to those the United States demands. When the positive results of the negotiations were announced, Itamaraty pointed out the Brazilian Government's willingness to agree to any regulation on control and supervision of its nuclear program, because there is no reason to object to any safeguards since Brazil's objectives are absolutely peaceful.

SENATOR CRITICIZES COST OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY181656Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Senator Teotonio Vilela, ARENA-Alagoas, has condemned the Brazilian nuclear program as a financial burden against the people's interest. He added that if the nuclear plants were in operation today, their benefit to the people at large would only be felt 30 years later.

DEFICIT WITH MIDDLE EAST INCREASED IN 1977

PY181509Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brazil's deficit with the Middle East increased in 1977 over 1976, with sales of $302 million and purchases of $2.97 billion. Likewise, Brazil registered trade deficits with the United States and Japan.

KNOWN OIL RESERVES SHOW 37-PERCENT INCREASE

PY172001Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1820 GMT 17 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Jan--According to today's statement by the PETROBRAS director, Brazilian oil reserves have increased 37 percent in 1977, and are now being estimated at between 0.8 and 1.1 billion barrels. At current production rates, these reserves represent approximately 20 years of production (60,000 barrels in 1977), but they are very modest if compared to the reserves of the main exporting countries, and even those of Mexico (which according to conservative estimates has about 17 billion barrels). Brazil is currently making efforts to get into production new deposits located along the coast on the continental shelf and which according to the estimates of some experts may hold as much as 15 billion barrels.

ELETROBRAS LISTS 1978 INVESTMENT IN ITAIPU

PY181222Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 17 Jan 78 p 21 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--ELETROBRAS intends to invest 71 billion cruzeiros in 1978, 14 billion cruzeiros of it in construction of the Itaipu hydroelectric plant, ELETROBRAS President Antonio Carlos Maglhaes reported yesterday. Brazilian-made equipment will total about 80 percent of purchases now and about 95 percent during the 90's, Magalhaes added.

Magalhaes refused to comment on Brazil's final decision about construction of a dam on the Monday River in Paraguay.

BRIEFS

COFFEE EXPORTS--Rio de Janeiro, 16 Jan--It was reported here today that Brazilian coffee bean exports during 1977 totaled 787,582 60-kg sacks. The Rio de Janeiro Coffee Trade Center also reported that during the same period the volume of soluble coffee that was exported was equivalent to 304,187 coffee bean sacks. During December, 1977, coffee exports totaled 69,820 coffee bean sacks and soluble coffee exports were equivalent to 36,011 coffee bean sacks. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1935 GMT 16 Jan 78 PY]

TEXT OF 13 JAN SOMOS INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET

PY181900Y Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 13 Jan 78 p 21, 22, 24, 25 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--By special correspondent Gustavo Landivar--How can the Argentine-Chilean controversy over the Beagle Channel be solved? Less than 48 hours after the national consultation was held in Chile on 4 January, this special correspondent asked this question of President Pinochet. He was accompanied by his foreign minister, Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal. It was a special interview held on the 22d floor of the Diego Portales Building--headquarters of the Chilean Government--to discuss the Beagle problem. SOMOS was talking to the highest authority in Chile. It was an hour of frank conversation, without leaving anything out, during which the Chilean president showed his interest in talking with the Argentine president, Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, who is currently staying in Futalaufquen, "very close to Chile."

Pinochet: You asked me how this problem can be solved. Well, both sides should give in. I am ready to talk. This is what we want. Let us talk now and bring our positions closer together.

SOMOS: But until a few days ago in Buenos Aires, it was said that Chile only talks but does not negotiate.

Pinochet: We talk to negotiate and we are negotiating, but we do not accept impositions.

The conversations between SAMOS, the Chilean chief of state and the Chilean foreign minister were at times conducted in a harsh tone. General Pinochet's greatest concern is that Chile "does not have any desire for war. We have not moved a single unit. What is more, I am behind schedule in replacing troops in the south in order to avoid a problem. So no one will say of me: There! He is moving troops."

SOMOS: But it is said in Argentina that you not only move troops but that you had Israeli observers.

Pinochet: As I said, I have not even moved any troops. Therefore, I certainly would not pay Israelis to come and look...

SOMOS: It has been said, however, that they were advisors more than observers....

Pinochet: But these are the things which are getting you angry, my friend.

SOMOS: You said a few minutes ago that we are brothers, that we have a common destiny. Therefore I ask: Couldn't the south seas, which are in conflict, become a shared area?

Pinochet: I told you at one time that shared areas are areas of constant conflict. I also told you that we have to fix borders wherever necessary. What areas belong to each country must be established. And once they are fixed, let us work together. Chile offers you the following: Let us create large binational companies for joint exploitation, and let us explore and exploit the area.

SOMOS: Was this discussed with Argentina?

Pinochet: Yes, sir. It was discussed with President Jorge Videla, my friend. And I believe there is a good predisposition.

SOMOS: Can there be another conversation at that level?

Pinochet: Of course. I have always been sponsoring conversations. That is why I asked the foreign ministers to please meet. But look now, it is 6 January. We are entering a regressive countdown.

SOMOS: The Argentine president is very close to Chile at this time...

Pinochet: Yes, he is in Futalaufquen. This meeting should be promoted. But unfortunately, the moment you open the Argentine newspapers you read that your country does not recognize any documents...from now on we have to think of something else. If we are really in a position to say: "Gentlemen, we cannot solve our problem this way," then let us solve them another way. The agreement signed by Chile and Argentina on 5 April 1972, in which the two countries agreed to submit themselves to the International Court of Justice could be a solution.

SOMOS: And will that be possible?

Pinochet: Of course that can be done. But we are not under arms or aggressive. No, sir.

SOMOS: Is that the impression prevailing in Chile regarding Argentina?

Pinochet: This is how we look at your position.

Foreign Minister Carvajal then interrupted the talk to make a clarifying remark: "There is a treaty which was signed at the request of Argentina when it maintained that the 1902 treaty--submitting our disagreements to the jurisdiction of the British crown--was obsolete because it had a person as arbitrator who had to be changed for a court. We found that perfectly natural and signed the new 1972 treaty, which submits to the International Court of Justice the legal solution of any controversy which may appear between us. I have heard, however, very high-level Argentines say: 'We do not like arbitration or a third party telling us what belongs to us or what does not belong to us.' This is, however a fully admitted method among civilized countries to solve their controversies."

Pinochet: We military governments have the obligation of safeguarding the honor of the nations. And honor is at stake here.

SOMOS: But it so happens that it is also difficult for a military government to relinquish the sovereignty of its country.

Pinochet: Unfortunately, this is not our fault. There is a letter signed by our grandfathers, and because of it we have lost half of the Beagle Channel, because, you see, the original treaty with Argentina said that the territory was Argentine "until it reaches the waters of the Beagle Channel."

SOMOS: You said to me that we Argentines look upon this case in a different way.

Pinochet: You are looking at the problem in another way. This question originated many years ago. But there is a way of solving problems between two countries. That is the gist of the question. If you and I were brothers, we would tell each other: "Look here. So as never to have any problem and never reach an unpleasant situation, let us seek a third person and place the problem before him. He will tell us who is right." In this way we solve problems, maintain the tradition of the family and never have any difficulties. "Do you agree. Yes. So do I." In a very simple way, that is the situation between Chile and Argentina.

They are two countries which have been born in the course of history, two countries which need each other. The Andean countries lean over this way toward our side because we are nearer. But the countries which always join together in South America are Chile and Argentina because of attractions of the mind, tradition, language and customs.

The Chilean president continued, sometimes seconded by his foreign minister: "We have signed many documents, always in search of a friendly solution. Thus, when we signed the 1971 arbitration commitment, by which we turned to the British crown, we decided that 'the decision will be compulsory for both parties. It will not be subject to appeals. Its fulfillment is based on the honor of the nations signing this pact.' Reasons for annulment were also given--for instance, that the award might be based on a false or forged document. Such is not the case. Or that the award might be part of or the result of a factual error. Such is not the case, either. This means, sir, that the honor of Argentina and the honor of Chile are at stake here. We have accepted everything. We even lost the Patagonia, see, and we accepted it. We also accepted King Edward's decision when he said: "Nothing for Argentina in the Pacific and nothing for Chile in the Atlantic." This is the sentence which started everything, and we accepted it.

SOMOS: But where does the Pacific end and where does the Atlantic begin?

Pinochet: Do you want to see? Come over here.

General Pinochet stood up and so did Foreign Minister Carvajal. This SOMOS correspondent accompanied them to a room next to the presidential office, where there was a large Chilean map on one of the walls.

General Pinochet showed a point in the southern sea with his forefinger: "Here is the boundary between the two countries, in the arch of the South Antilles, which constitute the natural prolongation of the Andean range. We and you agreed on the Andean range as our boundary. Well, here it is.

SOMOS: But if things are the way you say, the geographical projection of Argentina toward the Antarctic is interrupted.

Pinochet: Ah! That is another thing.

SOMOS: Now, what will happen if you claim 200-miles straight to the east from Mueva Island. Which is the closest to the Atlantic?

Pinochet: This is what we must talk over, my friend. We have no pretensions over the Atlantic. That is why we have to talk things over. Look, according to the new theory of the Continental Slope, we have the right to 200 miles. Therefore, I tell you again that we must talk it over. Now, mister, don't you come around here telling me what is yours and what is mine, because I will not take it. Certainly not.

SOMOS: In other words, you would not say 200 miles but 12 miles?

Pinochet: 12, 20, what is the problem?

Carvahal: I want to make something clear. There is an Argentine coast on the eastern-most part of Tierra del Fuego, and De Los Estados Island has rights 200 miles to the south. This is indisputable. But there is also a Chilean coast which has rights 200 miles east. We agree that our rights are superimposed right now. For example, this happened with the United States, which has had to come to agreements with Canada, Mexico and Cuba. It is perfectly legal and logical for us to negotiate with Argentina as we have been doing. We agree on that. So, there is no imposition telling a priori where the line must be. No. This is a negotiation in which each party holds a position. And this position is aiming at agreeing on a common line. So, it is wrong to say that Chile is stubborn in demanding its rights 200 miles east of Nueva Island.

Pinochet: And that is precisely what we have to talk over.

Carvahal: First, there were talks. Negotiations began with the meetings of the foreign ministers. And as the president said, to negotiate means each one softening his position.

Pinochet: You are here talking to the government's summit, to the head of the government now. And this cannot be intransigence.

SOMOS: Do you see the intransigence you are referring to in the Argentine Government as a whole?

Pinochet: Excuse me. I mentioned intransigence without giving any source.

SOMOS: But, do you think that some are more hawkish than others?

Pinochet: That is an Argentine problem. Here, we have some who are more hawkish and some who are more dovish. I am quite dovish and I am the head of government.

SOMOS: Some Argentines think of you as one who can negotiate, as opposed to others.

Pinochet: We are not warlike, as I told you. On my word as a soldier, I can tell you that I have not mobilized any unit. The few movements of troops which have taken place are normal for this time of the year.

SOMOS: And does Argentina have a warlike spirit?

Pinochet: I do not know whether Argentina has it or not. But Argentina has been "pulling our sleeves" for a long time already and I am keeping silent.

SOMOS: I insist. Is it possible that a meeting between you and President Videla, who is near Chile now, could be a solution?

Pinochet: But I am in the best frame of mind...I have said so to President Videla...

SOMOS: Have you talked by phone with him?

Pinochet: Not only by phone. We have talked personally here and in Washington. In addition, who opened the Chilean ports to Argentina, something which has never been done before?...I did. Who improved the roads?...I did. Who built the tunnel... I did.

I have gone to the limit already...well, if that is not a good frame of mind, my friend... who should ask for us to exchange views, to talk, to discuss? But of course, if I have somebody who comes to me and tells me "the limit between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans runs through here," why, since when is it so? Based on what? On what scientific evidence? No, sir. That is not a political thing to do. That is, he wants to impose it on me. Never, because...this country may be small, not wealthy as Argentina, but this country has a great deal of dignity...

SOMOS: It has very large human resources.

Pinochet: Those human resources, do you know about them? The people may have economic problems, but they are proud. We are not provoking, but they [Argentinians] are from over yonder and they have been for a long time already. Although we may sometimes appear to be weak, I believe that heads must be kept cool.

Carvajal: Since so much has been said about the Atlantic-Pacific principle, we believe that principle is no longer based on a modern concept. It may have been acceptable at the end of the past century...

SOMOS: But that was a pact and, as you said, it must be complied with.

Carvajal: Of course, but this concept of dividing the oceans between ourselves as though we were the owners is at best outmoded, because at that time in the past the 3-mile principle applied; that was the territorial sea then. But the point I want to make is that our intention is to open the Pacific for Argentina, because undoubtedly Argentine inland provinces need an outlet to the Pacific. We have to take into consideration the longing of the people from Mendoza and San Juan. So we believe that the Pacific must be opened to Argentine, Bolivia and all countries in the River Plate Basin, if they so desire. And what can happen if we come out to the Atlantic? I think that the fear of anything happening is absurd.

SOMOS: You, Mr President, announced a more aggressive foreign policy for Chile less than 48 hours ago. What did you mean with that announcement?

Pinochet: I have always been open to the world. I have always wished to have good relations. But what I am going to do now is to tell the world that if anybody attacks me, I will retaliate. I will not agree to be slapped, brother. But I will reply with ideas, not fighting. There are those who consider a strong word an act of war. No, sir. The aggressiveness of which I speak is only the aggressiveness of ideas, of the expression of our thinking. What I want to say is that the world does not know what is happening in Chile, and so we must tell it to the world, go out with movies, get the press to publish things as they are. This is what I call an aggressive foreign policy.

SOMOS: You said that there are interests other than those of Chileans and Argentines in creating a conflict...

Pinochet: That is my fear. There are people leading governments who are trying to get us to go for the bait. Because the only ones who stand to gain from a conflict between us--something whish I neither expect nor desire--would be the Marxists or some extra-continental power. Because if blood is spilled, the bleeding will last for centuries. It would be like a feud between brothers.

PINOCHET'S ENTOURAGE FOR VIDELA TALKS ANNOUNCED

PY190135Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 18 Jan--It was reported here today that five high-ranking officers of the Chilean Armed Forces will accompany President Augusto Pinochet when he travels to the meeting he will hold with his Argentine colleague, Jorge Rafael Videla.

The members of the Chilean delegation are: Gen Agustin Toro, rector of Chilean University; Gen Manuel Contreras, former DINA (National Intelligence Secretariat) director; Rear Adm Luis de los Rios; Air Force Gen Fernando Matthei, health minister; and Col Bruno Siebert.

NAVY OVERHAULING NAVIGATION AIDS IN MAGELLAN STRAIT

PY182213Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The navy's Lientur patrol vessel is now carrying out the exhaustive task of maintaining the marker system in the Magellan strait in perfect working order. While navigating in the area, the unit is conducting a meticulous overhaul of the markers and lighthouses in this region, which has seen an increase in sea traffic during the last few years.

In order to carry out its mission, the Lientur patrol vessel employs valuable equipment for the overhaul of buoys and navigational aids. It also counts with various modern instrument replacement materials, as called for by the constant modernization of these services carried out by the navy's Hydrographic Institute.

The Lientur's crew is also carrying out hydrographic research in the region to insure the safety of navigators, who periodically cross the difficult maritime commercial routes.

The marker maintenance task in the Magellan Strait is alternately and constantly carried out by the Lientur patrol vessel or the Colo Colo tug, the navy's oldest vessel in active service.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS RESTRICTIONS ON PDC MEMBERS

PY181454Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The meeting held last Friday by members of the dissolved Christian Democratic Party, PDC, and broken up by security forces, was allegedly aimed at analyzing the current national situation following the failure of their campaign to convince Chileans to vote no on the recent national consultation.

Security forces showed the press documents seized in the office of Guillermo Yunge, 1313 Huerfanos St, and said that the documents prove there was a plan to paralyze the country at the end of this year, provoking the fall of the government.

The security forces also stated that the leftwing of the PDC was responsible for the plan, which violated the political recess. This was the reason for the raid, arrest and confinement of 12 persons, including two former congressmen, to a restricted area in northern Chile.

The relatives of the persons held in confinement met with Jose Maria Eyzaguirre, president of the Supreme Court, to express concern over the health problems affecting the detainees due to the bad weather conditions.

Eyzaguirre suggested that they ask the appropriate officials for better medical attention for the detainees, particularly for those affected by respiratory problems. He told them that the order for restriction was approved by decree and that this is the exclusive right of the Executive Branch, particularly in the current state of emergency in force in the country.

SECOND-RANKING MIR LEADER KILLED IN 18 JAN SHOOTOUT

PY190158Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2354 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 18 Jan--It was reported here that the second most important leader of the clandestine Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] was shot dead today by members of the security forces.

According to the National Information Center (CNI), the leftist, who was identified as German Cortes Rodriguez, died after a shootout with members of the security forces.

The CNI, which replaced the DINA (National Intelligence Directorate) where Chilean security matters are concerned, indicated that Cortes tried to surprise members of the security forces by pulling a gun at his home in Santiago.

According to the official report, the dead leader was the second in command of the MIR's Political Commission.

Gabriel Riveros, another high-ranking member of this Marxist-Leninist political organization, was shot dead on Monday in a neighborhood of the Chilean capital.

INTERIOR MINISTER ADDRESSES UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

PY190215Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 18 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 18 Jan--Chilean Interior Minister Gen Cesar Benavides today denied that Chile's present military regime is sandwiched between two political governments.

General Benavides made the observation during the seminar on the new institutionality and democracy held at the University of Chile.

The minister said "the road to the new institutionality will not be the result of improvisations but of mature and thoughtful awareness of the nation's reality."

Finally, he said that the "immediate results which are desired by those who want to return to the decrepit past opposed the new gradual process, which consists of phases--each one with its own goals, objectives and individual tasks in keeping with the country's unwavering values."

ENERGY MINISTER REPORTS NATIONAL ENERGY FORECAST

PA131242Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0126 GMT 11 Jan 78 PA

[Speech by Maj Gen Jaime Eduardo Semblantes Polanco, Ecuadorean minister of natural resources and energy--live or recorded; date and place not given; intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] The policy of the armed forces government has been to build major works for everyone's benefit. An example of this is the (Pitayambo) hydroelectric central. It is the first such central and it was dedicated last month. It has the capacity to produce 60,000 kw. It will supply the provinces of Carchi, Imbabura, Pichincha, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Bolivar. (Pitayambo) represents an investment of (2 billion) sucres. It has been added to the (Huangopolo) thermal plant which produces 30,000 kw and was dedicated in April, 1977. This thermal plant cost 530 million sucres. Both constitute the first two generating plants of the national grid.

The armed forces government will make an overall investment of 9 billion sucres in the electrical energy sector. This sum is 10 times higher than what the Ecuadorean Electrical Institute invested from the time it was founded until 1972.

I must mention the inescapable role that the government has to play in guiding the national oil energy policy along more practical lines as the real circumstances of the oil-oriented world we live in required. It has been based on fundamental legal principles, inalienable state rights and the urgent need to draw the greatest profit for the country's development.

The ministry's efforts are noteworthy in working toward the creation of the National Energy Council as the organization in charge of setting guidelines for the energy policy and the National Energy Institute as the organization in charge of planning and coordinating energy activities and also of drawing up a master plan on energy. A major ministry concern has been the intensification of prospecting for hydrocarbons in order to find new reserves, clearly aware that it is a special duty not only to exploit the oil deposits rationally but basically to increase and conserve this major nonrenewable natural resource. For this reason, it has been the policy of this portfolio since I took office to attract new investments by laying the groundwork for a new type of contract called hydrocarbons operations contract that would attract firms that have the technical know-how and enough funds. As a result of this, several proposals have been made by foreign firms [words indistinct] eastern region but also the continental shelf [words indistinct] Ecuador's territory.

Concern has been voiced regarding a halt in prospecting in 1977. The following data refute reports to that effect. About 25,000 feet were drilled in 1975, 16,500 feet in 1976 and 47,500 in 1977. About 592 km of seismic lines [lineas sismicas] were laid in 1976 and 1,300 km were laid in 1977. Five exploratory wells were drilled in 1974, three in 1975, two in 1976 and five in 1977.

An important aspect of state relations with the Texaco Company refers to the prospecting, development and production agreement finally signed between the state, represented by the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE], and Texaco in order to promote the overall development of the consortium, to incorporate new potential oil fields to hydrocarbons production, to provide maintenance for new productive wells, to spur the necessary investment in secondary recovery [recuperacion secundaria] programs and especially to perform prospecting tasks to find new reserves of hydrocarbons.

As a result of this agreement, this year's investment plan totals more than 900 million sucres. Three new structures [estructuras] will be established. Some 1,100 km of seismic lines will be laid and it is expected that 17 advanced prospecting and development wells will be drilled. This prospecting program will permit an increase in the proven reserves of more than 100 million barrels and will regulate the partners' participation in crude production, which will increase by 25,000 barrels a day after the fields have been refurbished and artificially lifted [levantamiento artificial de los campos]. If to that we add the 10,000 barrels that will be obtained when CEPE fields begin to produce by mid-1978, we will be able to add 35,000 more barrels daily.

A matter of major national importance is CEPE's acquisition of 37.5 percent of the property rights and stock of the Gulf Company over the assets of the CEPE-Texaco-Gulf consortium. If we add this percentage to the 25 percent that had been previously acquired, we will have a total of 62.5 percent, which means that Ecuador will have majority shares in the consortium. This means that besides the economic advantages, the state will be in a position to control the productive sector that draws the largest amount of national revenue.

The firm forward push given to the completion of the Esmeraldas refinery should also be noted. It will be dedicated tomorrow and is another of the major works with which the armed forces government has begun a new era in the history of the Ecuadorean oil industry. More than 3 billion sucres was invested in it and its processing capability amounts to 55,600 barrels of (?eastern) crude a day. To date the plant has refined over 180 million gallons of top-quality fuel that has been used not only for domestic consumption and to replace imports, but also to obtain revenue totaling over 200 million sucres from exporting byproducts.

It is especially noteworthy that the provisional [as heard] maritime terminal has been built. It has been satisfactorily tested. A plant is being built so that natural gas from the (Chuchufindi) deposits can be used. With IDB funds, this year we will build the gas pipeline to transport liquid propane gas from (Chuchufindi) to Quito. A contract has also been signed to build the Esmeraldas-Quito oil pipeline that will transport approximately 60,000 barrels of fuel a day.

Concerning storage facilities, I am happy to report that in 1976 the country had the capability to store 10,410,000 gallons of soft products [productos blandos]. In 1977, with the incorporation of the Beaterio tanks in Quito and La Joya in Ambato, the storage capabilities increased by 13,230,000 more gallons. We have taken strides in the storage and bottling of liquid gas. In 1976 we had a storage capability of 1,697,000 kilos. In 1977 we incorporated a capability of 4,134,000 more kilos at the Esmeraldas refinery, 330,000 kilos at the Quito plant that was recently dedicated and 550,000 kilos at the Guayaquil plant that will soon be inaugurated.

Therefore, we have made a definite effort to build the basic infrastructure for refining, transportation, terminal stations and storage. These facilities are necessary for a regular, efficient supply of byproducts.

In recent years the national consumption rate has risen from 14 to 16 percent, one of the highest in Latin America, not only due to the increase in the number of vehicles and in industrial consumption, but also to illegal trafficking to neighboring countries and to the waste of fuels resulting from the freezing of the current low prices. It is necessary for all these reasons to chart and implement a policy of maximum use of byproducts since, otherwise, the country would be compelled to spend large amounts of money to increase the refining capability and the storage facilities and to import massive amounts of fuel.

As is well known, the domestic marketing of byproducts is handled directly by CEPE from the production plants to the large primary distribution centers. Maritime and land transportation and sales to the public have been traditionally handled and will continue to be handled by the private sector in keeping with the legal provisions in force.

It is also public knowledge that several things happened in the oil world in 1977 that radically changed the oil marketing structure both at home and abroad, thus causing serious problems for the marketing of Ecuadorean crude. Besides the excessive worldwide supply of almost 2 million barrels a day, we must mention those factors that have a negative effect on our part of the western coast of America and on CEPE's marketing efforts.

In view of the beginning of production in Alaska after the oil pipeline basically intended to supply the West Coast of the United States was built, the major increase of exports from Mexico and the beginning of oil exploitation in Peru after the oil pipeline was concluded there, we adopted a realistic position with firmness and integrity.

Aside from Texaco, with which we have been engaged in joint exploration and exploitation and, logically, aside from CEPE whose work in drilling five wells has yielded positive results, we have the (?Seatly) Ecuadorean Production Company [in English] which is finishing the construction of a secondary 80-km oil pipeline from Taracoa to Lago Agrio. It is expected to begin operations by mid-1978.

Argentina's Government Oil Deposits has already drilled three wells and the Curaray-(Equirun) well proved to be positive. This year the company will intensify the exploration of its area as set forth in the contract.

We have held talks with the Northwest Company on the use of the gas contained in the gulf and on prospecting programs, trying to reach agreements that are fair to both parties. It must be noted that it is the policy of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy to carry out the contracts signed with foreign companies with strict observance of the law.

Technical advancements and more complex and widespread operations have brought on the need to reorganize CEPE as a flexible and specialized organization that has the necessary management capabilities and autonomy to make decisions so that procedures will be expedited and administrative work will be facilitated through the use of our own experience and that of international consultants.

In its relations with international organizations such as the OPEC, the Latin American Energy Organization, the Latin American Petroleum Industry Mutual Aid Association and the world energy conference, this cabinet ministry's foreign oil policy has involved a moderate, integrationist and solitary participation under universally recognized principles and in line with the size of its potential. This ministry has concerned itself with putting together the salient world energy topics in order to suitably harmonize the respective policy, gaging the effect derived from an interdependent and soveriegn action. [sentence as heard]

Geological surveys have been made of 12,000 sq km and maps have been drafted on a scale of 1:100,000. In the mining research area, different studies have been made in the search for and location and evaluation of mineral deposits through (?zoochemical) campaigns, geological surveys and geophysical studies of the abnormalities detected in areas of Loja, Imbabura, Bolivar and Asuay provinces. Part of this work has been carried out through international agreements made with the United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium and the United Nations.

A total of 13 prospecting contracts, 23 exploration contracts and 21 exploitation contracts have been made in the mining administration area. In order to take the best advantage of the geological and mining resources, we have adopted the necessary measures to carry out the integral process in its three defined phases: preparation, which includes prospecting, exploration and evaluation; production, which covers exploitation and industrialization; and marketing, which consists of the commercialization phase.

Regarding the first exploratory stage, we have formulated the respective plan to establish Ecuador's geological and mining resources inventory by utilizing remote sensors, the application of which will be initiated during the first few months of this year so that the country can in the near future know what its true resources are as a prior step to proceeding with the production and marketing phases.

Meanwhile, we are analyzing the necessity of initiating geothermic development. The initial exploration, carried out by technicians from the Geology and Mines Directorate together with a qualified foreign company, includes preliminary studies which permit us to affirm that Ecuador is a country which has a high geothermic potential and has many prospective pilot areas to begin geothermic development, such as those of (?Tucinea) in the north (?La Lo) near Quito and the Cuenca and Ambato (?baths).

Undoubtedly, the plans and programs of the portfolio under my charge respond to the unquestionable requirements of social and economic development. This reason of a national nature has represented and will continue to represent the best encouragement to us to redouble our efforts and to devote ourselves honestly and patriotically--as we have already done--to serving the country even if a dispassionate and understanding judgement is not always received by those of us who, like others, patriotically and zealously protect the sacred interests of the community. Thank you.

GUAYAS PDC PROTESTS AGAINST HURTADO'S ARREST

PA181608Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] board in Guayas, through its president, Stalin Subia, has vigorously protested what it called the outrage committed against PDC President Oswaldo Hurtado and demanded the immediate release of this man, to whom the country is grateful for having changed the political scene by calling the people to a mature analysis of fundamental problems related to Ecuador's future.

PDC LEADER COMMENTS ON ARRESTS OF PARTY MEMBERS

PA181653Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Sunday's referendum, aside from the comments it has generated and aside from its results, has had political repercussions. For example, it has led to meetings among political leaders such as the one scheduled for this Thursday by the constitutionalist front in Guayaquil. It has also prompted politicians to adopt decisions on the presidential and other elections to be held in July. In addition, political circles have protested the arrests of the top leaders of four political groups: the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Progressive Conservative Party, the Democratic National Union and the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP].

This program will present one of the protests, made by Fausto Molina, president of the PDC in Pichincha. [begin recording]

[Question] To what do you attribute the arrest of [PDC national presidnet] Oswaldo Hurtado and other politicians?

[Answer] To arbitrary action by the government minister. He is probably resentful because of the latest statements made by Oswaldo Hurtado in the party's name a few days before the referendum to the effect that police authorities, top police authorities, should be dismissed from office because they are incompetent to manage such delicate affairs. As you can understand, the government minister is the top man in the police heirarchy because he is the minister of government and police. He has committed an arbitrary action against the leaders of the Concentration of Popular Forces, the PDC president, three members of the PDC national party board and five members of the PDC youth. Among the three is Mauricio Davalos, who was also a member of the first juridical commission.

The curious thing about this is in the city of Guayaquil, where those who were campaigning for null votes did so on the streets. And we have been informed that even a television station in Guayaquil was broadcasting publicity against the referendum; that is, for null votes. But they have not been arrested. They have not been punished. The ones who were punished were the PDC members, the members of the Concentration of Popular Forces and other political leaders of Guayaquil, all of whom voted for or supported the new constitution.

What is serious is not only the arbitrariness but that aside from the government minister's refusal to grant political amnesty to union leaders and imprisoned and persecuted or dismissed teachers, we are beginning a large-scale and massive democratic process, with a new, progressive and important constitution, but with political prisoners. We do not think we will head toward democracy if the government minister continues this arbitrariness, this lack of tact and lack of respect for public freedom. Not even the request for tolerance and amnesty made by Galo Plaza, president of the Supreme Referendum Tribunal--which is now the Supreme Electoral Tribunal--has been heard by the government minister.

[Question] Do you not feel that the arrests were made to obtain free publicity?

[Answer] We do not think the government can give us publicity, because no party has spoken to this government clearly, objectively and frankly. [sentence as heard] For instance, I ask today: If the Ecuadorean police are so competent and diligent as to arrest defenseless political leaders who were carrying placards, openly, in the presence of all the citizens of Quito, on their way to visit certain [words indistinct] electoral parishes, if the police are so efficient, why do they not fight the extraordinary corruption we have around us? Why do we still not know who are responsible for and covering up the famous car smuggling case? This is where the police should show their efficiency.

LIBERAL PARTY MAINTAINS ITS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

PA180017Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] In Guayaquil, National Liberal Party Director Francisco Huerta Montalvo flatly denied reports that Raul Clemente Huerta has offered to withdraw his presidential nomination in favor of the candidacy of Sixto Duran Ballen.

Montalvo explained that although the party supports the unity of the civilian sector, it also supports the Liberal Party's right to have its own candidate in the future elections.

Huerta also said that the chaos caused by the referendum has resulted in opportunism to such an extent that it is believed that through the "laying on of hands," or advancing candidacies, better electoral success will be obtained. He added that basically this bold opportunism is unfortunately seen more in party members than in the possible candidates, with the former even urging candidates to yield in favor of others.

POLITICIANS CLAIM REFERENDUM DISHONEST, RIGGED

PA171742Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA

[Text] In Guayaquil, Abdon Calderon Munoz, the national director of the Alfarista Radical Front, claimed today that Assad Bucaram's arrest was merely a trick to cover up the dishonesty of the Guayas Electoral Tribunal and of local authorities which allowed Bucaram to propagandize at the polls until 3 minutes before they closed, and then arrested him. Calderon Munoz said that Bucaram's propaganda and the pressure exercised upon voters during the voting process--the absence of secrecy and with voting conducted publicly under the eyes of police standing by the ballot boxes--resulted in a high percentage of votes for the new constitution, especially in the suburbs of Guayaquil.

Also in Guayaquil the former president and general director of the Revolutionary Nationalist Party, Carlos Julio Arosemena, charged today that the victory of the new constitution in yesterday's referendum is the result of large-scale fraudulent voting, which occurred because Galo Plaza, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, from Quito ordered polls to accept the votes of anyone. The former president explained that since voting was not conducted secretly but with the people's votes open for all to see, when at 1600 it was known that the new constitution was totally defeated, Galo Plaza--whom, big as he is corporally, is not the entire tribunal although he has made puppets of the other tribunal members--abusing his powers, ordered the polls to receive the ballots of anyone wishing to vote.

Carlos Julio Arosemena added that under these circumstances "Troy burned," and a large number of fraudulent votes were cast so that the new constitution would win. He said: The new constitution, so desired by the dictatorship, has been born but is stillborn because of its illegitimacy.

He complained that there was an extraordinary number of fraudulent votes cast along the coast and the so-called reformed constitution of 1945 won in most of the highland provinces. In other words, the dictators were beaten at their own game.

LABOR MINISTER DISCLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF ARRESTS

PY131237Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 Jan 78 p 9 PY

[Text] The Justice and Labor Minister today answered the letter sent to that ministry by the secretary general of the Paraguayan Workers Federation (CPT), in which he stated the federation's concern over the arrest of some union leaders.

Minister Saul Gonzalez' letter, in its first paragraph, stated: "CPT secretary general. I hereby acknowledge your letter No. 1,353, in which you request the mediation of this ministry for the release of various workers detained in Ypacarai.

"In this regard, this ministry has sent inquiries to other government organizations and has received information on the reasons for the arrest of various citizens in Ypacarai. In this regard, let me tell you that they have been arrested for allegedly violating Law No. 209, and that all the information has been submitted to the ordinary court which will in charge of finally processing this case."

The note also states: "We believe that it is appropriate to inform you that union activity carried out within the law has not been disturbed in any way; on the contrary, all manner of help is being given so that normal union activity in the country can be carried out. We also would like to let you know that until now, no entity or person in the country has come to this institution to make any kind of request on the situation of these citizens."

In conclusion, the note states: "Hoping that this has helped to clarify the situation which concerns the workers central you head, I take this opportunity to convey my best regards."

GUERRILLA KILLED IN SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE

PY131523Y Asuncion Radio Chaco Boreal in Spanish 1445 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] At the conclusion of the cabinet meeting, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro informed the press about a confrontation which occurred yesterday at the corner of Fulgencio R. Moreno and Regimiento de Infanteria 6 Boqueron Streets.

As a result of reports given to the police, a special unit was sent [to the above mentioned address] and was met with a hail of bullets and handgrenades. The guerrilla Jorge Agustin Zavala, 27, was killed during the shootout. A false identity card with the name of Ireneo Hector Cespedes was found on his body. The criminal Zavala has been on the wanted list since 1966.

During the raid, a trunk was opened and an explosive device detonated, seriously wounding police officers Elvio Rojas Arrellano and Esteban Martinez Chaves and slightly wounding police officer Julian Luis Paredes. All three police officers are now being attended at the police hospital. The interior minister promised he would hold a press conference on Monday in order to provide more details about this new incident.

CAPTURED DOCUMENT LISTS AIMS OF SUBVERSIVE GROUP

PY141912Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 14 Jan 78 p 11 PY

[Text] The photocopy of a document which, according to [Interior] Minister Montanaro "is the most significant evidence found among all documents," contains a 10-point "decalog" outlining the characteristics and ideology of the Political-Military Organization [OPM].

The highlights of the "decalog" of the Political-Military Organization [OPM] are: "(1. The consolidation of the OPM. (2. A workers-peasants alliance as the fundamental social basis of the process. (3. The revolutionary struggle as a method of achieving the hegemony of the working class. (4. The creation of the revolutionary party of the proletariat. (5. The formation of the people's revolutionary army. (6. A long, popular war as a general strategy of struggle. (7. The formation of the national liberation front. (8. Marxism-Leninism should be used as guide to analyze reality. (9. Revolutionary nationalism. (10. International proletariat and socialism as a historical goal."

Alleged Subversives Sought

PY161920Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Jan 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpt] The police investigation department reported yesterday that three women supposedly linked with the First March Organization, formerly called Military Political Organization, are being sought after a subversive plan was aborted a few days ago.

The police investigation department has issued an order for the arrest, and have offered a reward of 500,000 guaranies for information leading to the arest of Nidia Gonzalez Talavera da Costa, a widow. She was the wife of Juan Carlos da Costa, a subversive who died in a shootout with police in April, 1976, when the military political organization first made itself felt.

In that incident, Mrs Gonzalez Talavera da Costa resisted arrest, and by shooting her way out, she managed to escape, while her husband died upon being wounded.

According to police, Mrs Da Costa uses a false name, wears wigs and glasses on occasion and "is dangerous because she is armed."

The investigation department also requests the arrest of Maria Dejesus Caballero, Paraguayan citizen, 29, single, currently residing at 525 Lilio Street, Asuncion. Until last Friday she worked at a textile factory in Villa Morra, but when she was sought at home that night, she had already disappeared.

The third person being sought is Mirta Elena Ayala Ferreira, Paraguayan, 31, separated, residing at 486 Sarabi Street in this city. She had been working as a journalist until late December at the newspaper LA TRIBUNA which is temporarily not publishing.

TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ON ECUADOREAN BORDER CLASHES

PY191318 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text of communique released by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry in Lima on 18 January, 1978]

[Text] 1. The Ecuadorean Armed Forces violated Peruvian airspace and territory several times in 1977. The most serious violations were:

8 July, 1977. A Peruvian reconnaissance patrol in the Jimenez Banda sector, on national territory [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1212 GMT on 19 January reports that the garrison is located opposite the Ecuadorean town of Gualaquiza], found a 1,000-square-meter clear area with a large poster with the paint still fresh, carrying the inscription "Long Live Ecuador" and an Ecuadorean flag.

1 December, 1977. An Ecuadorean patrol of six men was intercepted in Peruvian territory near the Llavec observation post. The Ecuadorean soldiers were taken back to the Ecuadorean Army.

January, 1978. [no date] Reconnaissance by members of the 5th Military Region found that members of the Ecuadorean Army had constructed in Peruvian territory a port and facilities for army personnel with a sign reading: "Ecuadorean Border."

9 January, 1978. An Ecuadorean Air Force helicopter violated national airspace and landed in the soccer field of the Los Encuentros observation post. When the helicopter crew noticed the Peruvian soldiers, they immediately took off for Ecuador.

10 January, 1978. A group of Peruvian soldiers from the Capitan Bezada post, carrying no weapons, made a friendly visit to the Ecuadorean hunting site of (Muchu Cuarenta), as is the custom in that area. The inhabitants of this hunting site and Ecuadorean soldiers threatened to arrest the Peruvians, who therefore decided to leave. At this time, Peruvian soldier (Oscar Joroma Ojaiceno) was shot in the back.

This behavior is quite different from the serenity and peaceful attitude of the Peruvian Army regarding the violations mentioned.

2. When the Peruvian Government, through the Foreign Ministry, was about to convey to the Ecuadorean Government its deep concern over these incidents and suggest a bilateral procedure for greater control in the border areas, the army general command was informed of the following:

A. On 17 January, 1978, in an area near the Jimenez Banda garrison, Peruvian personnel at an observation post were attacked by Ecuadorean troops, who were repelled.

B. Today, at 1000, an Ecuadorean armed helicopter attacked the same observation post without causing any casualties, and the attack was repelled.

3. In view of this last incident, the Peruvian foreign minister called the Ecuadorean ambassador to his office to express the Peruvian Government's repudiation of an attitude which is compromising relations between the two countries, which can affect the peace which every government must safeguard, and which is detrimental to the national security and sovereignty the revolutionary government of the armed forces has the undeniable duty to safeguard.

4. In relation to this communique, instructions have been given to the Peruvian ambassador in Quito.

[Dated] Lima, 18 January, 1978; [signed] Department of Public Relations and Press of the Foreign Ministry.

Poveda Burbano Calls Morales Bermudez

PY191346Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The president of the Supreme Council of Government of Ecuador, Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, today expressed his deep concern to President Morales Bermudez over the events which have occurred in border areas, and his desire to reach an agreement within a climate of peace and cordiality between the two countries.

After a meeting at Government Palace, Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill reported in a press conference that this telephone conversation took place at the initiative of the Ecuadorean president.

He expressed his conviction that the action taken by the Ecuadorean president has helped clarify some events regarding the direct violations of Peruvian airspace and territory by Ecuadorean Armed Forces.

De La Puente said that regarding the communique released last night by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, he had nothing to add, because I feel it is quite clear.

But he said that he was happy to report the telephone conversation between the presidents of Ecuador and Peru. During the conversation, he continued, the Ecuadorean president expressed his deep concern over the incidents which have taken place, and his desire to (?begin) a dialog which might lead to agreements of mutual cooperation and coordination, especially at military level, in order to avoid a repetition of these events and to seek the climate of peace and cordiality which Peru wants not only with Ecuador but with all neighboring countries.

De la Puente thanked reporters for their interest in these reports, which ought to reach all Peruvians because they deal with a subject related to Peruvian sovereignty. In this case the citizens should be the first to be informed about events which are of vital importance. The foreign minister made these remarks from his office at the Torre Tagle Palace.

MESIHOVIC HAS TALKS WITH CONSALVI

LD182205Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1946 GMT 18 Jan 8 LD

[Text] Caracas, Jan 18, (TANJUG)--A joint delegation of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and of the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia led by Munir Mesihovic, member of the Executive Committee of the Presidency of the LCY's Central Committee, has arrived in Venezuela and had talks with Gonzalo Barrios, president of the ruling Democratic Action Party and president of the National Congress of Venezuela. Information on the activities of the League of Communists, the Socialist Alliance and the Democratic Action Party as well as on the two countries' activities internally and internationally was exchanged.

The two sides agreed to further develop and deepen cooperation between the two parties in harmony with good bilateral relations between Yugoslavia and Venezuela. Simon Alberto Consalvi, Venezuelan foreign minister, talked with the Yugoslav delegation today and gave an official reception in honor of his Yugoslav guests at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

COPEI CANDIDATE DECRIES IMPAIRED FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

PA161544Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 13 Jan (EFE)--Freedom of expression is threatened in Venezuela and the person primarily responsible for this is President Carlos Andres Perez. This charge was made in Caracas today by Luis Herrera Campins, presidential candidate of the Social Christian Party (COPEI), the main opposition party. In a speech marking the 32d anniversary of the party's founding, Herrera Campins blamed the government for the present situation, saying that it makes abusive use of its official advantages. Never has a democratic regime dared to regiment public opinion as now, when radio and television stations are obliged to broadcast government bulletins twice a day during prime time, Herrera Campins said. We hope, he continued, that the government will desist from this attempt to control and influence the social communications media and that the media will resist this pressure, which is detrimental to a democratic climate.

Herrera Campins accused the government of causing the inflationary spiral which Venezuela is experiencing and which is affecting popular sectors. He said that in addition, a lack of fiscal discipline has prevented proper use of the millions [currency not specified] in oil income. This administrative disorder, Herrera Campins said, provides fertile ground for corruption at all levels, while the government's lack of fiscal austerity is a permanent invitation to overindulgence in consumer products [consumismo]. When ending his criticism of President Perez' administration, Senator Herrera Campins emphasized that individuals and property are increasingly unprotected and that the various sectors of the nation have not hidden their very justified concern and fear.

Referring to his party's 32d anniversary, Herrera Campins said that the party has become one of the mainstays of democratic life in Venezuela today and that it represents a hope for the brother peoples of a continent that is in dramatic upheaval because of the prevalence of de facto governments and dictatorships of various types. Herrera Campins also said that his presidential candidacy represents a valid option for ending all the evils with which Venezuela is presently afflicted. He said that to this end, after his victory in December, he will establish a government made up of citizens who are competent, honest, patriotic and devoted to duty. Herrera Campins said that COPEI's efforts, now and in the future, are directed toward helping to build a different world in which the people will be able to develop with the encouragement of the state, which will in turn be the guarantor of liberty, justice and participation.

BRAZIL'S AZEREDO: NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

FL182156Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2110 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio F. Azeredo da Silveira has asserted that his country uses nuclear energy purely for peaceful means. He added that his government has not violated the first Tlatelolco treaty which calls for the denuclearization of Latin America.

On another matter, within the activities of the Brazilian parliamentary mission that is accompanying President Ernesto Geisel, a communique has been released stating that Brazilian and Mexican parliamentarians agree on the ideals on the region's integration.

BRAZIL'S GEISEL ENDS VISIT, RETURNS HOME

Awards Lopez-Portilla

FL182212Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2112 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--President Jose Lopez-Portillo, upon receiving from his colleague, Ernesto Geisel, the "National Order of the Cruzeiro do Sul," has said that the period of abstract declarations among the Latin American nations is (?changing).

He maintained that such declarations are characteristic of underdeveloped nations, but that this characteristic has been transformed in the search for concrete results.

He noted that he agreed with General Geisel on the need to keep in force human rights, so that these "can be enjoyed." This is the guarantee for food, medical care, education, recreation and happiness.

Greetings During Dinner

PA181930Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1014 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Jan (AFP)--Brazilian President Ernesto Geisel and Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo reaffirmed here tonight the similar desires of their peoples to struggle for just Latin American causes.

The Brazilian chief of state gave a dinner here tonight in honor of his Mexican counterpart. It was attended by 1,500 people, including ranking Mexican Government officials, the diplomatic corps and other Mexican figures.

In a cordial atmosphere, which Geisel's favorite Brazilian musical group turned into a real Brazilian-style celebration, the two presidents confirmed the firm ties of friendship that exist between the two peoples and vowed to do their best to further the desire for integration of all Latin American countries.

During the dinner, Geisel decorated Lopez-Portillo with the National Order of the Cruzeiro do Sul "in recognition of the efforts of President Lopez-Portillo, the Mexican chief of state, for closer relations between the two nations," in the words of the Brazilian president. Geisel had said earlier that the talks he held with his Mexican counterpart were marked by the exchange of many genuine and profound ideas. In a brief statement, the Brazilian chief of state said he was impressed with the cordiality shown him during his visit and called Lopez-Portillo a defender and advocate of the most just causes of the Latin American people. "Causes which Brazil shares," he added.

In turn, Lopez-Portillo said he was very pleased with President Geisel's firm stand on human rights. He stated that this visit demonstrates the mutual intention of Brazil and Mexico to turn into common endeavors what has been only isolated ideas up to now.

"The era of abstract ides of the Latin American people is giving way to specific accomplishments and effective agreements," the Mexican president said. "As far as human rights are concerned, one must take into consideration that there are limits to human consumption," he added. [sentence as received]

He finally espoused the dreams of late Mexican statesman Jose Vasconcelos that Latin America would become a universal race with headquarters in the Amazon region.

President Geisel, his wife, his daughter and his party will end their 4-day tour of this capital on Wednesday morning. Before leaving, Geisel will sign a joint communique with the Mexican president summarizing the results of the meetings they held here along with their respective ministers.

Seen Off by Lopez-Portillo

FL182034Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1917 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (INFORMEX)--Today at the presidential hangar, President Jose Lopez-Portillo bade farwell to Brazilian leader Ernesto Geisel, who was in Mexico on a 4-day official visit.

Despite the fact that it was cold and very windy this morning, the atmosphere was cordial and hospitable.

After accompanying the Brazilian leader to the farewell ceremony, the Mexican chief executive, peasant sector representatives and members of the cabinet and diplomatic corps listened to the corresponding honors and salutes to the flag. Immediately after this, Geisel boarded the Brazilian Air Force plane which would take him to Merida, Yucatan, Curacao and Brazil.

The aforementioned ceremony lasted about 15 minutes. Worker and peasant popular sector representatives at the airport cheered when shouts of "Mexico-Brazil" were given. This changed the cold morning to a cordial send off.

TORRIJOS TO ACCEPT MEMORANDUM'S INCLUSION IN TREATIES

PA182121Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2045 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Contadora Island, Panama, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Omar Torrijos announced today that he will accept the inclusion of the "Memorandum of Understanding" released last October in Washington into the new treaties. By doing this he increases the possibility that the U.S. Senate will ratify those agreements.

The Panamanian chief of government made this announcement at the end of a 2-hour meeting he held on this small island in the Pacific with seven U.S. Senators, members of the Foreign Relations Committee, who arrived here yesterday.

The "Memorandum of Understanding" was released on 14 October following a meeting at the White House between Torrijos and President Jimmy Carter. Despite the fact that the memorandum is, in effect a joint communique clearing up certain points in the treaties, it has not been signed by either of the two parties. In short, the memorandum establishes the right of the United States to intervene in the canal's defense after the year 2000 when the treaties will no longer be in effect. At the same time it clearly states that this "intervention" will not extend to Panamanian domestic affairs. It also "interprets" the treaties by indicating that the "expeditious passage" granted to U.S. warships means that in case of an emergency they will be allowed to move "to the head of the line" in order to transit the canal.

Many senators who doubt whether to vote in favor or against the ratification of the treaties would vote "yes" if the memorandum were included as an integral part of the Torrijos-Carter agreements signed on 7 September.

In Panama, on the other hand, that inclusion might create some difficulties because the treaties have already been ratified by means of a plebiscite held on 23 October. Some people feel a new referendum should be held.

Nonetheless, Torrijos said here today that the contents of the memorandum were released here and widely explained before the day in which the consultation was held.

Further Report

PA190035Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] Gen Omar Torrijos, dressed casually and smiling, this morning received the seven U.S. senators, members of the Foreign Relations Committee, on Contadora Island. When the U.S. senators arrived, Torrijos accompanied them from the runway to the Contadora Hotel and talked with them along the way. A U.S. reporter asked him if he would accept amendments and Torrijos--we wonder whether he did so seriously or jokingly--replied: Every amendment is a plebiscite. Do you really expect the Panamanians to spend all their time on plebiscites?

At approximately 1140, before reaching the presidential suite of the hotel, one of the senators told Torrijos that perhaps there would be time to take a dip in the ocean, to which Torrijos quickly replied: Certainly, but let us dip into the canal problem first. General Torrijos announced this afternoon after his meeting with the seven U.S. senators that he is willing to include in the canal treaties the memorandum of understanding which he and President Jimmy Carter agreed upon on 14 October 1977. Torrijos told the senators: I see no difficulty in including the memorandum because the Panamanian people knew about it before they voted in the plebiscite.

That document explains the right of the United States to defend the canal after it passes into Panamanian control as well as the right of U.S. warships for priority passage through the canal in cases of emergency. It also declares that the United States cannot intervene in the internal affairs of Panama. It is believed that many senators who still have doubts on how to vote would be inclined to vote for the Torrijos-Carter treaties if the memorandum of understanding is included.

The seven U.S. Foreign Relations Committee senators met with Torrijos on Contadora Island. None of them wanted to say how he will vote, explaining that the Foreign Relations Committee must hold deliberations first. However, they said that Torrijos ended their doubts about Panama's capacity to manage the canal.

CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES GIVE ASYLUM TO PANAMANIAN WOMAN

PA181347Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Canal Zone police and security authorities have granted asylum to Mrs Nilsa Espinosa Gonzalez, who took asylum a few days ago in that Panamanian territory which is under foreign jurisdiction. She alleges that Panamanian authorities are trying to confiscate a supermarket she owns in David, Chiriqui, and her store in Paso Canoa.

It has been established that Mrs Nilsa Espinosa Gonzalez' case has been reported to the U.S. senators who are visiting here and also to Washington. However, Zonian authorities have not reported the case locally.

It is hoped that tomorrow Panamanian authorities will provide additional information on this case, which has occurred at a time when an important senatorial commission is visiting.

PANAMANIAN GROUPS TALK WITH VISITING U.S. SENATORS

PA190428Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Members of the National Liberal Party, the Panamenist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Independent Lawyers Group met today with the group of U.S. senators from the Foreign Relations Committee. The meetings were held at the Holiday Inn and the interviews between the Panamanian groups and the U.S. senators were held simultaneously, which prevented the press from properly covering each one of them. The Liberal Party was represented by Alfredo Aleman Jr, David Samudio, Guillermo Quijano, Joaquin Franco and Julio Harris, who talked with Senators John Sparkman and Clifford Case. The Liberals reaffirmed that it is necessary to approve the treaties without amendments, indicating that a clash of two countries, even though it may be of [word indistinct] ideologies, is not good for anyone. The Liberals said that the United States does not have the right to interfere in the internal affairs of Panama and, therefore, their talks with the senators were confined to the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Meanwhile, the group of Independent Lawyers, consisting of Carlos Enrique Adames, Oswaldo Velasquez, Manuel Garcia Almengor, Jose Manuel Faundes and Jose Manuel Faundes, Jr, met with Senators Jacob Javits and Paul Sarbanes. In this meeting the Independent Lawyers told the senators that the 1972 constitution had legalized the nonexistence of democracy and established autocracy. They added that the Assembly of Representatives is a deception created with the sole purpose of showing the world that we have a legislative organ but that this organ legislates nothing. Besides, this legislative organ appoints a president of the republic in only 1 day.

The Independent Lawyers gave long and detailed explanations of the country's internal organization, although they said that they did not seek U.S. intervention in Panamanian affairs by providing their opinions.

Replying to a query by one of the senators as to whether they believed that Panama has a legal government with which to negotiate with the United States, the lawyers said no, that the present government is illegal and labeled it dictatorial. They added that if the treaty is approved, the National Guard would get $50 million which would only serve to perpetuate Torrijos' dictatorship. The $50 million will only be used to keep us, our children and our grandchildren in a condition of slavery, the lawyers added.

The Panamenist Party members, including Jose Salvador Munoz, Miguel Batista, Jorge Pacifico Adames, Guillermo Endara Jr and Juan Chevalier, met with Senators Frank Church and Clayborne Pell. The simultaneous holding of the meetings did not permit us to be present at this meeting but it was reported that the principal subject discussed was the quick manner, without debate, in which the treaties were submitted to the plebiscite.

The group of Christian Democrats consisted of Luis Emilio Veces, Guillermo Coches, Edgardo Molino Mola and Elsa de Garcia, who talked with Senator Charles Percy. The Christian Democrats explained their "No" vote in the plebiscite. They said that the treaties did not satisfy the aspirations of Panama. Percy said that when he came to Panama he did not agree that changes should be made to the treaties but now believed that the Panamanian people understand the importance of neutrality for the United States.

Finally, Senators Case, Pell, Church and Sparkman met with Planning Minister Nicolas Ardito Barletta at the Holiday Inn. The results of this meeting are not known because newsmen were asked to leave when the talks began. They were given only a few minutes to take photographs and make films.

DELEGATION TO VISIT UNITED STATES TO EXPLAIN STRUGGLE

PA190301Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A Panamanian delegation will travel to the United States to explain the liberation struggle to important U.S. organizations. Those prestigious U.S. organizations are the Detroit Economic Club, the Chicago Foreign Relations Club and the Pan-American Development Foundation of Washington.

The Panamanian delegation will be composed of Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Panamanian ambassador to the United States; Nicolas Ardito Barletta, planning and economic policy minister; negotiator Carlos Lopez Guevara; Ed Abbot, a business executive; and Eduardo Ferrer Morgan, economic adviser at the Panamanian Embassy in Washington.

RADIO COMMENTARY ATTACKS U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

PA181524Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[International Beacon Commentary: "The Champions of Human Rights Turn Into Their Violators"]

[Text] The United States has tried to cover up its domestic crisis, which is reflected in the social inequalities of that country, by taking up the much publicized human rights campaign solely to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

The United States has already made several charges in international forums as a self-proclaimed champion of human rights with the right to investigate the internal affairs of th's and that country. And yet it continues to systematically give economic and military aid to regimes that promise to protect its imperialist interests.

Undoubtedly, the world power with the greatest potential to wage war has been obliged to change its international strategy in order to continue strengthening itself as the supreme policeman of capitalsm. The McCarthy era of the "Big Stick" and the Alliance for Progress have been relegated to the past because of their lack of success. The United States saw that its tarnished world image had to be improved if it was to stay at the top of capitalism's exploitive and oppressive system.

That is why the United States undertook its campaign as the systematic defender of human rights. But after 1 year its policy had not produced the expected results. Its domestic policy is reflected everywhere and, paradoxically, has had a negative effect because everyone can see the wolf through the sheep's clothing.

Some of the worst racial and social practices of discrimination in contemporary times are seen in the United States. With a high unemployment rate, which is close to its illiteracy rate, the United States still wants to solve the problems of other countries before worrying about the tremendous problems afflicting its people.

It is not accidental that over 180,000 coal miners are in their 7th week of a nationwide strike demanding better working conditions for their protection and security. Several labor, social, civic and political organizations in the United States have accused the Carter administration of continued violations of individual rights. Even U.S. courts are involved, keeping hundreds of persons in prisons of the worst possible conditions, persons whom even after they have been sentenced and after they have served their terms, are found innocent. Recently, the American Urban League, which is made up of blacks and which is considered one of the country's most important organizations, severely criticized the White House's social policies. Its leaders pointed out that all measures which would lead to healthy social conditions for blacks and other minority races in the United States are blocked in Congress because of allegedly more important business.

A large majority of U.S. blacks backed Carter's candidacy because he promised better social programs for them, and they are a large majority of the unemployed.

The real problem is that neither Democrats nor Republicans have concerned themselves with solving the social problems of the majority of Americans. These parties want only to alternate in power every four years so that their respective interests can continue enjoying and consolidating their economic power. Their enormous industries continue giving excessive gains to the powerful groups that manage the traditional U.S. parties, while millions of human beings in the nation's 50 states suffer great hunger or chronic malnutrition, are denied education and employment and, consequently, do not have the necessary living conditions championed by the paladins of so-called justice.

COMMENTARY VIEWS U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS

PA190412Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[International Beacon Commentary: "Unemployment in The United States"]

[Excerpts] Unemployment among U.S. black youths and women increased last year despite the slight overall decrease of unemployment in the United Sates. Figures show that unemployment among black youths, ranging from 16 to 19 years of age, increased from 326,000 in 1976 to 395,000 in 1977. Among black women, the increase was from 541.000 to 567,000. These figures are included in a report of the U.S. Labor Bureau which shows a 1.4 percent decrease in unemployment last year.

Those figures have been criticized by John (Dodge), Director of the Philadelphia Unemployment Project, who argued that the unemployment and welfare offices are filled with people without jobs. In the United States there is a hidden unemployment rate which almost doubles the one admitted by the U.S. Federal Government. The official figures do not include more than one million workers who have stopped looking for nonexistent jobs as well as several millions of unemployed persons who have been forced to accept part-time jobs.

The unemployment rate among U.S. minority workers reached 25.3 percent. Among youths, the unemployment rate was 27.8 percent. The highest unemployment rate was that of black teenagers.

In view of this domestic panorama in the United States, we can only point out that the alleged champions of human rights do not even respect the rights of their own society. This clear panorama is an evident example of the anti-popular practices of the U.S. overnment which today wants to appear before world public opinion as the most Puritan and righteous opponent of poverty, hunger and social injustice. Thus, we can conclude that if they keep a large part of their population in subhuman living conditions for the benefit of a few, what can you expect of the peoples who are under the exploitive aegis of the United States?

LAWYER, POLITICIAN COMMENT ON 'DEMOCRATIC OPENING'

PA181633Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

["Enfoques" panel discussion program featuring Mario Velasquez and Itzel Velasquez de Rangel with guests Dr Fabian Echevers, president of The Movement of Independent Lawyers, and Alfredo Ramirez, former prominent politician and member of the liberal party] and currently a member of the Republican Party--Live]

[Excerpts] [Velasquez] Echevers and Ramirez, as you noted on last Tuesday's program, something which I considered to be significant occurred. For the first time an official at the level of Dr Escobar [chief canal treaty negotiator Dr Romulo Escobar Betancourt], who is one of General Torrijos' closest aides, made a statement which I would call almost official concerning the government position regarding certain political problems, including the possibility of holding a constituent assembly, a possibility which has been suggested primarily by The Movement of Independent Lawyers.

With regard to political freedoms, Dr Escobar said that President Lakas and General Torrijos wished to see such freedoms promoted, that there be broad opportunities for exercising them. With regard to political parties, Dr Escobar said that no decision has yet been reached. In addition, we will discuss other topics which you will bring up in the course of this program. Thus, I feel it is important to comment on Dr Escobar's statements, since these statements were almost official.

In this regard, I would like one of you to give me your opinion of Dr Escobar's statement to the effect that it is the firm decision of the government--of President Lakas, of General Torrijos and of high-ranking officials--to promote a climate of freedom and tolerance in the country and to sound out popular opinion by means of this process. I do not know which of you would like to comment on this. Dr Echevers?

[Echevers] Yes, of course, Mario, with pleasure. My personal opinion is that the democratic exercise presently being experienced in the country, although it is not as firmly rooted as Panamanians would wish, is not the result of any concession on the part of the national government. It could be said that there has been a certain tolerance on the part of the government in the face of the demand by various sectors of the citizenry who have been constantly active and have been demanding the exercise of public liberties, calling for the right to exercise public freedoms.

[Ramirez] Mario, rather than to discuss or explain the existence of this so-called democratic opening right now, it seems to me that it would be interesting to determine what opportunities this democratic opening gives for questioning basic matters in the country. I think that it would be academic [teorico] to begin to discuss whether or not we have a certain greater or lesser degree of democratic opening. I think that it is more interesting to ask whether through this so-called democratic opening we can begin considering the nation's basic problems, among which I give first place to the unpostponeable need to begin a reform of the constitutional regime which prevails in this country.

[Rangel] Dr Ramirez, during Dr Escobar's participation on this program, one of the issues brought before him was the charge that the democratic opening had been felt broadly only at the political level and in the communications media. It was also mentioned to him--and I remember mentioning it myself--that changes at the institutional, legislative and other levels were also necessary. On that occasion, he answered--and I think that it is also recorded--that there will not be a change in the Constitution because in 1972 there was such a change which provided for the democratization of institutional regimes in Panama. I can deduce from this that there will not be any changes in the Constitution, since the change which he feels should have been made, was made in 1972. What is your opinion in this regard, since such statements have already been made by a government official?

[Ramirez] When I began answering Mario's question I said precisely that I believe that as long as there is not what I would call a great national agreement, a profound conviction by those governing and those governed that there cannot be talk of democratic systems or democratic opening without an amendment of the Constitution, then we are wasting our time. That is my sincere opinion. I believe, with all due respect for the opinion of Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, that he is not right in believing that when this Constitution was drafted in 1972, a democratic regime was being established in Panama. It is called a democratic regime, but I do not believe that a democratic regime of government was established. And this occasion, this opening, should be used to make the people and the government aware that it is necessary to proceed to reform that constitutional text.

[Echevers] It seems to me that it would be worthwhile to summarize the comments that I made with regard to the so-called democratic opening. I do not believe that such a democratic opening exists and I do not want to give the impression that I believe that my presence on this program--notwithstanding the kindness and freedom with which this program is conducted--I do not believe that this is representative of democratic opening in this country.

I believe that as long as the basic conditions do not exist for a free interplay of ideas; as long as political parties are not permitted to operate legally; as long as there is not a free, or let us say an independent, press in this country which is not controlled in any way by the government; as long as there are expatriates; and as long as the threat hangs over all of us who are politically active in this country that we can also be expatriated, we definitely cannot talk of conditions of political freedom.

I do not believe that a political grain of sand is a political opening. I believe that we are working to achieve and consolidate something in this regard, and that the effort is being made by the citizens and not by the government. It is possible that the government may join in the effort now.

[Velasquez] Excuse me, Doctor, with regard to your proposal, which complements what Ramirez has said, I wish to note--in order to attempt to answer the questions raised by Dr Escobar's statements--what Dr Escobar said here with regard to the difficulties involved in, or his objections to, amending the constitution through a constituent assembly is to speak of a coup d'etat. I would like you to comment on this.

[Echevers] Of course, not only do I disagree with Dr Escobar, but I say that he is not right in this regard. The recent history of world politics shows us how not a few modern states have achieved constitutional reform without changing the political regime prevailing prior to the constitutional reform. That is, a change of regime is not a necessary condition for the passage from an anti-democratic form of government--such as that which presently prevails in Panama--to a democratic form, which could result from constitutional reform. I wish to point out to you that when this government, which called itself a provisional revolutionary government before 1972, decided to institutionalize itself, it did so without changing the structure of the political power which existed at the time. And unlike what has been said, a constitutional National Assembly was not elected to consider reforms to the constitution. Instead, an Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives was elected which had no political definition and no previously known functions. It was given, as its first duty, the task of considering a constitution which had been reformed by a 25-member commission appointed by the executive organ. However, if we accept the thesis held by some to the effect that there was a constitutional assembly in Panama, then we also have to reach the conclusion that it is possible to pass from one form of government to another without, as a consequence, previously eliminating the established government. However, as an act for the political health of this country, I do not dismiss the idea that the government should step aside. I believe that the just thing would be for this government--which is an exhausted and sterile government with no creative initiative of any kind--to step aside and for us to replace what is currently known as an emergency plan with an emergency government in which all the honest sectors of the country which have the desire to contribute to the political and economic salvation of the country would participate. This is the best way to arrive at a constituent assembly.

[Velasquez] It seems to me, Dr Echevers [Changes sentence]. I have always had great respect for you because of your professional honesty, but I would like to be somewhat critical. The idea of considering that a government may step aside is not realistic. If I turn to recent history for a classic example, I see that one does not exist. Therefore, I believe that the prudent thing to do here is to consider this democratic opening from a realistic viewpoint.

[Ramirez] I do not believe that the purpose of coming here--to comment on the statements made by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt--is to oppose everything he said. I share some of his beliefs. I share the belief that we cannot amend this constitution and change this autocratic, one-man government without disrupting this constitutional regime. One has to bypass it and one cannot do this through the mechanisms of reform which that very regime establishes. In reality, I agree with him. It is necessary to go over the heads of the present constitutional regime. He calls this a coup d'etat. Perhaps he is concerned. He has certain scruples regarding the use of that term. I can sincerely say that I could call it an emergency plan. I could refer to it as special measures, but basically I agree that measures must be taken which go beyond the constitutional statute in order to reform and change that statute if we really wish to embark upon the important and unpostponable task of establishing a democratic regime in Panama. Such a regime does not exist. Therefore, if the paths to this reform are called a coup d'etat or convocation of a constituent assembly [changes sentences--FBIS] there is an idea that a national plebiscite could be convoked, or, I understand that some members of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives suggested that they again be given constituent powers to reform the constitution. Any of these paths could be used as long as there is a national consensus regarding the need to amend the constitution for the good of future generations.

[Rangel] Doctors Echevers and Ramirez, I am interested in the following: I identify with certain sectors in Panama that feel that the political parties have no ideological identity or no alternatives in their platforms. You have said here that the constitution should be amended so that there may be alternatives to this government, that is, that there may be some power other than this government. However, concerning these other powers which you propose, in this case the group of Independent Lawyers is a professional association which is assuming political positions [sentence as heard]. How can it become a political organization with a real ideology and a defined platform? No Panamanian who has become politically active under this government is divorced from political participation. How can groups which have held power in the past become real options on the path to economic development? Let us clearly understand what options for development they propose. What would be your real ideological position? We are suddenly at a juncture at which the options seem to us to be similar, some of them obsolete and others very imprecise. We are somewhat at sea because so far we have not had political positions explained to us. There is one position which is that of the independent lawyers, acting as an association. There are other positions held by traditional organizations which at this time have not defined, at least not clearly, positions which are different from those which they held before. What questions do you ask yourselves other than that which we have been discussing--the alternative to the present power? What will we be fighting for? Toward what goal will we direct our struggles? This is the question which I ask of the two groups--one a young group and the other a group which already has a lengthy political history in this country.

[Echevers] Itzel, you are quite accurate in your description of the nature of the Movement of Independent Lawyers. It is definitely a professional group. You are right in saying that in its activity the Movement of Independent Lawyers has entered spheres, areas which could be considered to be reserved for political groups. This has been widely discussed within the Movement of Independent Lawyers, which is firmly determined to remain a professional group. However, as you also note, there has been an absence so far--until now, when the political groups have resumed activity--an absence of groups which could take up certain banners in the country. When the Movement of Independent Lawyers appeared to infringe upon areas which do not seem to be really professional [does not complete sentence] In view of the abovementioned absence, the Movement, because of the nature of these matters, the importance of the topics, because of the seriousness of the problems from the viewpoint of the national interest, the movement had to become basically interested in the issue of the negotiations with the United States. I personally believe, and it is our opinion, that every Panamanian, even if not a politician, is duty-bound to be interested in these matters.

The Movement of Independent Lawyers committed itself to the task of providing the motivation for the country's political groups to achieve the necessary reactivation and to create the conditions and the political climate necessary for the democratization of the regime. It could possibly be feared that that point the movement was not fulfilling a professional function, but was rather fulfilling a high political function. I wish to state on this program--and it is a scoop for "Enfoques"--I wish to announce tonight that the Movement of Independent Lawyers, because of its awareness that it cannot continue to involve itself in matters which are directly or indirectly political, is working to organize a political group in which other professional groups, students and workers--the entire Panamanian spectrum--will participate. Its purpose is to participate in political activity when it is resumed in the country, with the basic objective of fighting for the establishment of a democratic regime and the exercise of public freedoms in this country.

[Velasques] Echevers, I believe that the conversion of the Movement of Independent Lawyers could be the subject of another program in which there could be some form of ideological description so that we could know how the movement will define itself.

[Echevers] Excuse me, Mario. It is not a conversion. The Movement of Independent Lawyers will continue to be a professional group. However, members of the movement, individually, will participate in the political group. But the idea is to keep the movement from being involved in political activity and to have this political group as the one which [sentence interrupted]

[Velasques] Let me try to ideologically define this political party.

[Echevers] It is a political group. A political party was not been considered. Circumstances will determine its future.

[Velasques] Ramirez, would you like to comment on the question which Itzel asked?

[Ramirez] I feel that Itzel's concern is very characteristic of her youth. Her ideals and her patriotic concern for the destiny of this country. She is aware that political parties should be entities directed toward promoting the social, political and economic improvement of the country. I fully agree that this forced recess of political groups should serve a purpose so that when the political groups resume public activity--because they will return, one can be perfectly sure of it--so that when they return they will be regulated in a more efficient way, in a manner more likely to make them instruments and tools at the service of the nation. I believe that it is necessary to regulate political parties with regard to their format, their existence, their financing, the internal democratization which should exist to prevent a certain group from taking over the leadership of the parties and establishing dictatorships within those parties. I completely agree that it is necessary for there to be wide-ranging regulation in this regard and that the traditional political parties, if they wish to participate in this new era of political activity, will have to put themselves in line with this new philosophy. The political parties must shake themselves up and stop being--as many of them were--instruments at the service of certain economic and social clans. This is my position regarding political parties.

[Velasques] Ramirez, there is a topic which was discussed by Dr Escobar, which I feel was very important. It concerns what he said to the effect that General Torrijos is sounding out public opinion, collecting information from the community with regard to the political situation. What is your opinion of this?

[Ramirez] I heard those statements by Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

I have to say that I heard with great satisfaction his statement that this is a permanent concern on the part of General Torrijos--to sound out the thoughts, the concerns of the various sectors of the Panamanian people in order to discover what Dr Escobar called the intimate truth of the Panamanian people and to act according to those intimate feelings. I praise this attitude which Dr Escobar Bethancourt attributes to General Torrijos and I wish that he, with all his energy, would use this sounding out process to discover the intimate feelings of the Panamanian people with regard to this government regime. I am sure that if he uses this sounding out process, it will be found that the Panamanian people intimately want a change from a system of government in which a single person decides the destiny of the country in all areas. This will be the result of this sounding out process which Gen Torrijos should carry out if he really wants to know what the people really want. What the people really want is a change in the present system of government. And if General Torrijos, convinced and aware of these intimate feelings of the Panamanian people, wishes to honor these feelings then he will seek the way, along with all civic sectors, with all the imp sectors of this country, in which to transform this one-man government into a real demo government--a system of laws, not of men.

[Rangel] Dr Ramirez, to return to the topic of political parties, it is well known that there are serious differences between Samudio [Liberal Party President David Samudio] and you which have affected the unity of the party. How could a unification of the Liberal Party be achieved when the party is reintegrated into political life?

[Ramirez] I would like to tell you that I resigned from the Liberal Party's presidency and directorate and withdrew from the party about 10 years ago. Immediately after doing this I joined the political directorate of the Republican Party. I am very pleased to be a member of that political group and plan to continue cooperating with that party and that group of men in this new phase of the country's democratic recovery.

[Velasques] I would like to make some final observations because the program is almost over. Perhaps due to the nature of my work in the field of information, I am under the impression--I almost have the certainty--that although the country wants changes, reforms and a reorientation of the political structures, it has not yet found any alternatives; that the very debate on the democratic opening, the resurgence of parties and the holding of conventions with the contributions of politicians to that debate has been eliciting reactions from certain circles; that regardless of how displeased they may be with some of the government's doings, they have not yet found what they seek in the alternatives presented to them. Perhaps as the result of the political ostracism of the past 9 years, the political parties are organizations with very little prestige in this country and their image as well as the tasks of politicians must be revamped. [Words indistinct] The observation, as you well know, I used to be a politician myself. In fact, I used to be a politician before becoming a journalist, and I believe I will always be a politician. I am concerned about this and would like to state that concern. This applies to government politicians as well. Panamanian politics must be revamped in such a way as to make it attractive to the community. When the October coup was staged and the parties were beheaded, all parties here, including those with a large following such as the Liberal and Panamenist Parties, showed their total inability to react. They did not issue a single pronouncement or react in any way. I think this is something interesting that should remain as a concern, particularly now that you are going to participate in the political arena. Political parties and campaigns should be given a new, acceptable viable and attractive image. I do believe we are conducting the debate of the political issue amid much discredit. I frankly deplore that we have not finished discussing and possibly will never finish discussing political issues, but I would like to thank you both for your participation in this program. I am very pleased that you came here tonight and that we have had your contribution here in "Enfoques" Dr Ramirez and Dr Echevers, because I think they help enrich this great public and national political debate that is taking place in our country. Thank you very much and good night, dear viewers.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PA190307Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2114 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 18 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The resumption of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Costa Rica remain in the dark as a result of electoral interests in Costa Rica. The two presidential candidates who have a chance to win the 5 February election have not given signs of promoting a reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, which were broken off in 1961 at the time when summary executions were being carried out by the revolutionary regime, against which Costa Rica raised its irate voice. Luis Alberto Monge, candidate for the National Liberation Party (now in power), and Rodrigo Carazo Odio, candidate for the opposition unity bloc, dealt with the subject last night in separate interviews on television Channel 6. Monge said that the relations will not be resumed as long as distinguished Cuban personalities who had close ties with his party remain in jail. This was an evident reference to Huber Matos. Carazo Odio said that diplomatic relations should not be reestablished as long as the Costa Rican people do not want them.

BRIEFS

GNP REPORT--Costa Rica's Gross National Product grew 6.9 percent in 1977, Planning and Economic Policy Minister Fernando Zumbado has disclosed. He noted that this figure is even more favorable if one takes into account that the country's agricultural production was seriously affected by a drought. [San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Jan 78 PA]

TRADE WITH CENTRAL AMERICA--San Jose, 10 Jan--The Costa Rican economy vice minister has reported that Costa Rica has a favorable trade balance with Panama totaling $8 million. He said that Costa Rica's exports to Central America, excluding Panama, totaled $113 million while it imported $106 million worth of goods. According to the vice minister, Costa Rica exported to Central America and Panama $15 million worth of goods more than it imported. He added that this has been occurring for the past 2 or 3 years. [San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1720 GMT 10 Jan 78 PA]

GUATEMALA

NO DATE SET FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON BELIZE

PA182227Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] The Guatemalan foreign minister said during a news conference that so far no date has been set for the next meeting with the British delegation in the effort to solve the problem of the Guatemalan territory of Belize. He said that the meeting should take place at the end of January, but that there has been no communication for the establishment of the date.

FIVE KILLED IN 17 JAN CLASH IN SUCHITEPEQUE

PA180418Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0306 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Jan (AFP)--Five persons were killed today in an armed clash between security forces and presumed guerrillas, according to information released tonight by sources close to the police.

The incident took place in the town of San Bernardino, Suchitepeque Department, some 200 km southwest of this capital. Two of the five casualties were security agents. The other three, including a woman, are reportedly guerrillas. Details of the clash were not available. It was only confirmed that it took place at 1900 (0100 GMT). Meanwhile, it was learned that a Guatemalan Army official was machinegunned in Ixcan, Quiche Department, 300 km north of this capital on the Mexican border. According to the report, he was leading a 20-man patrol, which has been reported missing.

BRIEFS

NEW COMMITTEE COORDINATOR--The president of the republic has appointed Ricardo Arguedas Martinez, minister of communications and public works, coordinator of the National Reconstruction Committee. He will replace Jorge Lamport Rodil. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA]

INDIAN CONSUL APPOINTED--The Indian Government has appointed Guatemalan citizen (Hudri Rash) as its consul ad honorem in Guatemala. Mr (Rash) has already been accredited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA]

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

OIL CONCESSIONS GRANTED--Tegucigalpa, 12 Jan (AFP)--Honduran Natural Resources Minister Rafael Leonardo Callejas disclosed today that Honduras has granted Esso and Texaco an oil exploration contract for 400,000 hectares in the Atlantic Ocean. Prospecting is to begin in March and is expected to be completed in 1 year. The official said that "the concessions have been given for exploration and with exploitation rights if petroleum mantles are discovered." The state will get its share according to the law through royalties and income taxes comprising 50 percent of the profits. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0239 GMT 13 Jan 78 PA]

NEW MILITARY ATTACHE--Lt Col Juan Ramon Molina Cisneros, who is presently assigned to the Honduran Embassy in Washington, has been appointed military attache to the Honduran Embassy in Spain. [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA]

COTTON REVENUE--The country will receive a total of 25 million lempiras from the sale of 46,000 500-pound bales of cotton on the international market, the manager of the southern cotton cooperative has reported. He added that the country will receive another 4 million lempiras from the local sale of cotton seeds. [Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Jan 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

NICARAGUA

DEMONSTRATION BEING ORGANIZED FOR TODMAN'S ARRIVAL

PA181401Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] A demonstration is being organized for 24 January when U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs Terence Todman arrives.

The demonstration is to highlight the nation's problems. This information appeared in the newspaper DIARIO 24 HORAS, which cited political sources.

GOVERNMENT DENIES CHARGES BY CHAMORRO'S WIDOW

PA181948Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 78 PA

[Communique issued by the Secretariat of Press and Information of the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua--date not given]

[Text] In view of statements made to a large group of newsmen by Mrs Violeta Barrios de Chamarro, which also appeared in today's issue of LA PRENSA, the secretariat regrets that it must deny (?these statements), which undoubtedly resulted from the profound sorrow and pain being felt by Mrs Chamorro. The president clearly stated during a news conference yesterday that neither he nor his government are involved in this deplorable event; that investigations are underway to identify those responsible, and that punishment will be implacably meted out to them.

[signed] Rafael Ocano [as heard], secretary of press and information of the Presidency of the republic.

SECOND CHAMORRO KILLER DENIES CONFESSION

PA180326Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Harold Cedeno Escoto today became another of the arrested suspects to deny any participation in the murder of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal on 10 January. The prisoner, a clerk in a local store, had given full details of his participation in the crime to Police Judge Col Luis Ocon. However, when questioned before First District Criminal Judge Guillermo Rivas, he denied having participated in any way in the murder of the journalist, which has shaken the country. When he made his statements before the police judge, Cedeno Escoto gave extensive details of the events leading up to the crime. He even confessed that he had been in the three-car caravan which was used to carry the criminals during the murder of the LA PRENSA director. However, before the criminal judge, Cedeno Escoto declared that what he had said before the police judge "was a string of lies" to prevent the police department from torturing him. He now says that what he told the police judge was based on what he had heard in prison and on rumors.

Cedeno Escoto said that in prison he had heard the statements given to police by Silvio Pena Rivas, leader of the gang which killed Chamorro Cardenal. This time, the prisoner accused only Silvio Vega Zuniga of the crime, whom he described as "the famous bearded one."

The prisoner obviously added no new details to the investigation to determine who paid to have Chamorro killed. Cedeno Escoto's statement lasted 5 hours and was labeled in legal circles as "confusing, cynical and contradictory." It was broadcast to the nation by local broadcasting stations and caused great indignation. The general opinion is that the man is lying since he had previously confessed his participation in the crime before the police judge, without being tricked or being threatened and in the presence of many journalists and the general public.

The other prisoner who had confessed firing on Chamorro was Domingo Cedeno Chavarria. Later, he denied everything before the criminal judge and fingered Silvio Vega Zuniga, a currency dealer. Cedeno Escoto's statement has caused more confusion in the investigation underway to determine the names of those who paid to have Chamorro killed.

RADIO CITES TASS STATEMENT ON ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT

FL190020Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Soviet Union has rejected distorted information disseminated by the press and officials of Western Europe on the participation of USSR military personnel in the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. An authorized statement by the TASS news agency states that such inventions are aimed at distorting the real situation and covering up Western plans for intervention in the conflict.

The statement points out that the true origins and development of the armed conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia are presented erroneously, and there is an attempt at showing that thousands of citizens from other socialist countries are also participating in favor of Addis Ababa.

The statement emphasizes the role played by the USSR in the search for a political solution to the problem in order to prevent an armed conflict. Following the Somali aggression, the statement says, the USSR placed itself on the side of the victim of the aggression, and, at the request of the Ethiopian Government, is providing the appropriate material and technical assistance to repel the invasion. The Soviet Union acted in this manner following the guidelines and principles of its foreign policy even though it could have led to hostile measures against the USSR by the Somali leadership. Those who now are trying to defame the USSR are precisely those who encouraged the Mogadiscio government to attack Ethiopia, promising arms aid, the statement says.

The statement then emphasizes that currently, when the expansionist plans are failing, these circles are intensifying the supply of arms to Somalia through third countries and are threatening direct intervention. All this is happening when Ethiopia remains invaded by Somali troops and its government has officially declared that its only objective is the liberation of its territories.

Lastly, the Soviet statement warns about the responsibility of those who stubbornly refuse to reach a just solution to the Somali-Ethiopian conflict, which could complicate the international situation even more.

Ethiopian, TASS Statements Cited

PA190227Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 78 PA

[World Events commentary]

[Text] The Ethiopian Government proclaimed its right to take any measures it considers necessary to expell the aggressors and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In a statement released by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, the government, presided over by Mengistu Haile Mariam, rejected recent statements by President Carter, who intentionally distorted the causes for the conflict in that country--a conflict which threatens peace in the so-called Horn of Africa.

All the blame for violating peace in the region falls on the Somali expansionist circles, which unleased an attack against Ethiopia that disregards the principles of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity the statement says. The document released by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry says that only on the basis of the total withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory can peace return to the region.

After accusing the United States of instigating violations against Ethiopian sovereingty, the statement says that if the U.S. Government continues its policy of interference and support of the aggressos, Ethiopia will be forced to reconsider relations between both countries. It also says that its country intends to attack no other state and that the war waged against the Somali aggressors is eminently defensive.

It then denounced the fact that the Somali reactionary circles are using tanks, heavy artillery and jet planes in their war against Ethiopia, and that the Somalis have the support of the United States and other Western powers. All this, predicted (Perhany Valle), can lead to the expansion of Somali aggression and to the deterioration of Ethiopian-U.S. relations.

The Soviet agency TASS also analyzes the U.S. attitude in the Horn of Africa conflict. Within this framework, it commented on recent statements by President Carter that distort the situation in the region and alledge that the Soviet Union contributed to the war between Ethiopia and Somalia.

It is no secret, TASS commentator Yuriy Ornilov says, that with evidently expansionist statements and promises the United States pitted Somalia against Ethiopia, trying in this manner to create more problems for the African progressive forces and to damage the anti-imperialist unity of the African states.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union did everything possible to prevent the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia. Now the USSR proposes that this conflict end as soon as possible and that differences between Somalia and Ethiopia be settled at the conference table based on mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference in domestic affairs.

The TASS commentator says that disregarding the facts, the U.S. President is now trying to blame the Soviet Union for the establishment of a tense situation in Africa. This is just a premeditated attempt to distort the true state of affairs with the intention of besmirching the USSR's attitude and distracting public opinion from the improper actions of the Western circles.

Washington's attempts to blame the innocent for having instigated the conflict, thereby absolving the guilty party, cannot in any way promote a prompt solution to the conflict, the Soviet agency TASS concludes.

WEEKLY FLIGHTS BETWEEN LUANDA, HAVANA TO BEGIN 29 JAN

FL181635Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Regular weekly flights by the Angolan airline between Luanda and Havana with a stop at Sal Island will begin on 29 January. The signing ceremony of the agreements governing air transportation between the People's Republic of Angola and Cuba using aircraft of that fraternal country took place at the conclusion of talks, which were held in this capital.

Attending the ceremony were Jose Fernandez, assistant director general of Angolan air transportation services, and Eduardo Nascimento, commercial director.

Present for the Cuban side were Helio Mora, commercial director of Cubana de Aviacion, and Orfelina Menendez, chief of the Commercial Policy Department. Also attending the signing ceremony were Transportation Minister Antonio Enrique Lusson and Vice Minister Argimiro Ojeda.

TELEVISION REPORTS ON BREAK IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS

FL190212Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Jan 78 FL

[Text] These images, received via satellite, are from the Jerusalem Hilton. There, between glasses of champagne and wine, Zionists and Egyptians are trying to arrange the world to their liking. Still, everything does not seem to be going smoothly. A few hours ago the leader Anwar as-Sadat ordered his foreign minister, Muhammad Kamil, to return to Cairo, thus interrupting the bilateral talks being held in Jerusalem. At the same time, and according to reports, As-Sadat called the People's Assembly into session.

It appears that the cause of the dispute is the reiterated Zionist reticence to not abandon one bit of the occupied territories. This was pointed out some hours ago by Menahem Begin, and it is a position Washington secretly agrees with.

Yesterday, for example, at a banquet held in the imposed Zionist capital, Begin behaved, according to AP, like a proconsul and later became paternalistic, lecturing the uncomfortable Egyptian delegation on some history lessons. It all seems to indicate that the Egyptian ruler, despite his innumerable political concessions, has not been able to gain anything from these negotiations.

CULTURE MINISTER HART COMMENTS ON CHAMORRO'S MURDER

PA182143Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2054 GMT 18 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Jan (LATIN)--Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart said here that the murder of Nicaraguan newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro "was the straw that broke the camel's back" and that "the Nicaraguan people's reply will be to put an end to the Somozan dictatorship."

Hart, who arrived in Mexico yesterday to meet with Mexican Education Secretary Fernando Solana, was interviewed yesterday at the international airport shortly before returning to Cuba.

The Cuban official criticized the "actions of General Somoza's regime against the democratic organizations and men fighting for freedom and social justice in that Central American country."

He denied that the Cuban Government promotes or finances the so-called Sandinist Movement struggling against the Somoza dynasty, that it supplies the movement with weapons, or that it has sent Cuban guerrillas to Nicaragua.

"When something serious happens in a Latin American country where democracy, justice or freedom do not exist, the fascist regimes accuse Cuba and unleash a series of lies in order to discredit the democracy existing in my country," the Cuban minister said.

He said that "in several Latin American countries the killing of persons seeking justice, democracy and freedom--as happened with Chamorro in Nicaragua--have been very significant because the murders reflect the democratic opening desired by the Latin Americans."

During his short stay in Mexico, Hart met with his Mexican colleague to "make adjustments" in the cultural agreements existing between the two countries, it was revealed.

Hart Returns Home

FL181220Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Council of State members Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture, and Haydee Santamaria, director of the Casa de Las Americas, yesterday returned to our country after attending the Intergovernmental Conference on Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being held in Bogota, Colombia, under UNESCO sponsorship.

On his trip back to Cuba, Hart paid a visit to Mexico, where he met with Fernando Solana, secretary of education of the United Mexican states.

FAR CHIEF OF STAFF RECEIVES PORTUGAL'S MELO ANTUNES

FL181820Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] General Staff, this morning received Maj Ernesto Melo Antunes, member of the Portuguese Council of the Revolution and chairman of the Constitutional Committee. Arturo Lince and Roberto Bello, deputies to the People's Government National Assembly; Col Demetrio Montseny Villa, chief of the FAR Ministry's Foreign Relations Directorate; and Portuguese Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Joao da Palma Carlos participated in the meeting, which was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

CTC OFFICIAL MEETS WITH CANADIAN LABOR LEADERS

FL181645Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban trade union delegation headed by Jesus Escandel, executive secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], has met with union leaders of the Canadian province of Quebec. During the meeting, which was attended by the President of Quebec's Union of Educators, (Ivonne Charbernaugh), (Michelle Cicot) and others, an interesting exchange on the experiences of the two organizations took place.

Subsequently, the Cuban delegation participated in a special meeting of the Executive Board of Montreal's Central Council of the National Trade Union. During the meeting, the the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean was discussed. The Quebec trade union leaders were interested in the contributions of the Cuban labor organization to building socialism as well in as the history and actions of the CTC, which was founded in 1939.

VEIGA ADDRESSES FINAL SESSION OF FORESTRY WORKERS CONGRESS

FL181210Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, has made the closing remarks at the Second Congress of the Forestry Workers National Trade Union, which was held in Baracoa, Cuba's most eastern province. During the event, Reinaldo Saldana was reelected secretary general of the Forestry Workers Union.

The delegates to the congress unanimously approved the central report, draft resolutions, the union's bylaws and the final resolution. In his speech, Roberto Veiga referred to the importance of the congress and the significance of the tasks that have been assigned to the labor movement.

WORLD STUDENTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE HOLDS EIGHTH SESSION

FL181518Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The Permanent Preparatory Committee [CIP] of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival has held its eighth work session in the Cuban capital. During the meeting, it was agreed to convoke a fourth [as heard] CIP meeting on 2 and 3 March in Berlin, capital of the GDR, after holding consultations with the GDR and Cuban preparatory committees.

According to the plans approved by the meeting, the CIP will print and distribute four posters in the coming months prepared by the Propaganda Bureau. For its part, the Physical Security Bureau will prepare informative leaflets on lodging and medical and sanitary services for the delegations during the festival.

The delegation of the International Union of Students [IUS], which is visiting Cuba headed by its secretary general, Fathi Al Fadl, has met with the members of the CIP. In the meeting, which was attended by CIP coordinating secretary (Allain Gresh) and Luis Felipe Vazquez, Cuban representative to the CIP, Fathi Al Fadl announced that the IUS financial aid to the International Solidarity Fund will amount to $30,000.

It was also learned that Ramona (de Llane), national chief of the daily UNITA's activities in the Italian Communist Party, visited the CIP main offices, where she was briefed on the preparations for Havana's world youth meeting. The CIP main offices were also visited by the coordinators of Canada's preparatory committee, Allan Larsen and Daniel Pautek.

MARXISM-LENINISM PROFESSORS HOLD MEETING IN HAVANA

FL181600Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1217 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] We cannot consider our educational task to be concluded until the communist ideas, morality and attitude have become personal convictions of the students, Fernando Vecino Alegret, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of higher education, has affirmed. The minister read the central report at the first meeting of professors of Marxism-Leninism of higher education centers, which began at the Anibal Ponce Theater of Havana University.

Following the opening remarks by Benito Perez Masa, Vecino Alegret read the central report on the role of Marxism-Leninism in training high level specialists and its decisive impact on the resolutions of the first party congress dealing with the development of higher education. He stressed that every specialist in any sphere of social work in which he participates must be a builder of socialism.

ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY DELEGATION VISITS PCC OFFICES

FL181605Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1221 GMT 18 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The delegation of the Interior Ministry of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, headed by (Mameri Kalpa), director general of information, cooperation and administrative reform, has visited the main offices of the PCC Central Committee. Participating in the meeting were Antonio Diaz, chief of the Domestic Education Department; Arnaldo Silva, chief of section of the same department, and Ernesto Gomez, an official of the Foreign Relations General Department. The Algerian delegation is visiting our country to learn about our experiences in the field of cadre formation.

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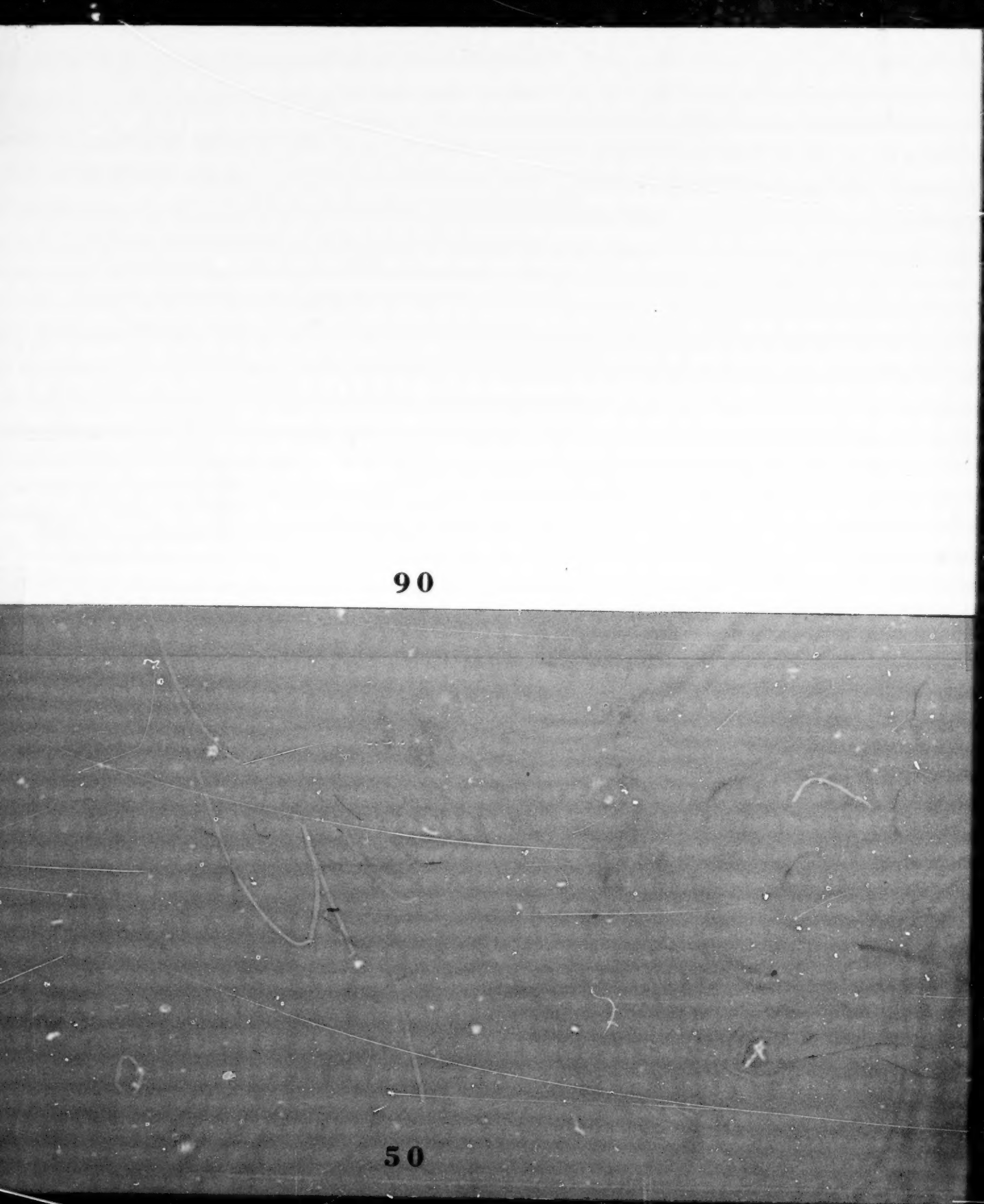
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